



Lifestyle

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Decorating Showcase B8



Sports

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swinging on Thanksgiving B5W

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16 PAGES

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Wilmington High School Students of the Month

This month, all Wilmington High School students were recommended for exemplifying the Communicator mindset: "Communicators at WHS promote respectful appropriate discourse that is founded in well informed ideas that are both inclusive and purposeful in manner and intentional." They include: Giuliana Cormier, Sarah D'Angelo, Lily Bouley, Hanna Hadzik, Cassidy Zuk, Taylor O'Connell, Kayla Butler, Victoria Ings, Zoe McCarthy, Pauline Douzepis, Rafael Paiva.

(Courtesy photo)

Select Board, again, approves 175 percent tax shift

By NOELLE BLACK
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — Following a private executive session, the Select Board held their most recent meeting on Nov. 24. To begin, they heard a presentation from Principal Assessor Karen L. Rassias regarding Wilmington's local property tax policy.

Rassias and the Board of Assessors recommended "a classification shift of 175%" to follow the guidelines set by Prop. 2. They believe this shift will result in an equitable division of tax responsibility among residential, commercial, industrial, and personal property.

She then reviewed the FY26 values to show the changes planned for the coming fiscal year, and reminded those present that this was the best option for taxpayers in the community.

Additionally, the town has almost always opted for this recommended 175% shift.

Members stated that increasing taxes may need

to be confronted someday, but decided to vote unanimously to approve the Board of Assessor's recommendation.

Next, the board heard a second presentation from Staff Sergeant Jacob Nash and Karen West representing the Toys for Tots program. Nash represents both Middlesex and Essex counties, and his chapter served over 104,000 children last year.

The two presented the board with the Commander's Award from the Marine Corps for the town's participation in the program. Nash extended his thanks to the town as a whole, adding that they couldn't do this work without the help of private citizens and local businesses alike.

The final pick-up date will be Dec. 12, and donation bins can be found at the Wilmington Senior Center, the American Legion, Market Basket, and several other locations across the town. Those with donations too large to move on their own may reach out to Toys for Tots for assistance.

Lilia Maselli asked for what age range the program collects toys. She was told it goes from ages 0-12, but that many of the requests were for older children around 9-12.

It was specified that donations should be new, unwrapped toys and that,

while gift cards were not accepted, cash was OK. Those interested in making a request may do so by filling out a form on the Toys for Tots website.

Karen West closed the presentation by once again thanking the town for "29 years of the public not failing us." Before they left, Frank West thanked Nash, adding that he was one of the best Toys for Tots coordinators the town has ever had.

Town Manager Eric Slagle then went over two communications the board had received. The first came from Michael F. Mikson, the Executive Director of Human Resources at Charles River Laboratories, informing the board of their decision to "partially cease operations" at their Wilmington facility. This decision will result in the loss of 68 jobs in the community and affected employees will lose their employment as early as this January.

The second communication was from Xfinity, wherein they stated their plans to raise prices across all of their television package tiers. Additionally, they mentioned that channels owned by Versant such as USA, E!, and MSNBC would no longer be available on their legacy video tiers starting on Jan. 8 of this coming year.

SELECT | PAGE A7W

Matthew Poska chosen as next superintendent

By NOELLE BLACK
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The School Committee met on Nov. 25 to vote on a new superintendent of Wilmington Public Schools. The finalists at the center of the discussion were Dr. Patricia Haynes, Dr. Brandi Kwong, and Matthew Poska.

Before beginning debate, the committee thanked all involved for their tireless efforts in this job search, which began back in May. Members stressed that their decision would be primarily informed by what the community told them they wanted for this role.

Specifically, they would look for someone who would advocate for both staff and students. Clear communication skills were also noted as of high importance.

Michael Mercaldi was the first to speak on the matter. He acknowledged that Dr. Kwong had the most experience, and commended Poska on his direct answers in his interview and for his student-first mentality.

However, his top candidate remained Dr. Haynes. Mercaldi felt her "no-

nonsense, get-things-done personality" was the best fit for the district's current needs. He mentioned her fiscal management skills and experience working with a tight budget as other reasons for his pick.

Rebecca Lord also included Dr. Haynes in her recommendation for the position, but chose Dr. Kwong as her top contender. While she greatly appreciated Poska's "coach-like vibe," she was more excited by Dr. Kwong's emphasis on communication and years of experience in Massachusetts.

Dr. Haynes' ability as a collaborator and specific ideas for improving WPS made her an excellent second choice.

Nicholas Golden agreed with Lord, but ultimately chose Dr. Haynes as his number one.

The next member to make their recommendation was David Ragsdale. He told the committee that all three candidates would be great superintendents, and so it was very difficult for him to come to a final decision.

After fully considering their résumés, references, and interviews, Rags-

dale picked Poska as his favorite. It was the thoughtful and direct answers he gave in his interview, Ragsdale said, that made him stand out from the other two.

Stephen Turner felt Dr. Kwong was the candidate best suited for Wilmington's current needs.

Since she already has several years of experience being a superintendent in the Commonwealth, she appeared to be the perfect person to maintain the momentum that the town had mustered up.

The last two members to vote on their pick for superintendent were Jennifer Bryson and Jesse Fennelly, both of whom voted for Poska. Bryson appreciated Dr. Kwong's hands-on nature and Dr. Haynes' ideas for the district, but it was Poska and his solution-oriented mindset that most impressed her.

She also felt his commitment to always putting students first was admirable.

Fennelly, being the last to speak, stated that much of what he was going to discuss had already been brought up

POSKA | PAGE A7W

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Wilmington Library News:

Gingerbread House making on Monday, Dec. 8

Library Closure: The library will be closed Friday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. for Staff Development.

Adult Programs

Drop-in Tech Help
Tuesday, December 9, 2pm
Wednesday, December 10, 2pm
Thursday, December 11, 2pm
Saturday, December 13, 2pm

Have a tech question that's been bugging you? Stop by Drop-in Tech Help.

Intro to Android Phones
Monday, December 8, 7pm

This class will show you how to navigate your device, how to manage notifications, where to find out where your pictures are being backed up, and more.

Cookin' the Books
Tuesday, December 9, 12pm

If you love to cook and enjoy talking about food and sharing recipes, then this group is for you! Grab a copy of the cookbook, register on the library's event calendar, and record your recipe. Bring your dish to the meeting and enjoy sampling everyone's dishes! Featured Cookbook: The Complete One Pot — America's Test Kitchen

Craft & Chat
Wednesday, December 10, 6pm

Enjoy making a craft while socializing with others! This craft group meets the second Wednesday of the month at 6pm. This month's craft: Faux Stained Glass Ornament. All craft supplies will be provided.

Fun & Function of iPhone
Thursday, December 11, 2:30pm

Whether you're new to the iPhone or looking to unlock its hidden potential, this session will cover essential tips, tricks, and features to make your device both practical and enjoyable.

The Social Impact of Tea in Our History
Thursday, December 11, 7pm

Join us for an engaging



▲ Join us for one of the two sessions of Gingerbread House Making on Dec. 8, at 3:45 p.m. or 6 p.m. for a fun and festive filled event! (Courtesy photo)

discussion on the social impact of tea in our history and society.

We will begin with the discovery of tea and learn first about the spread of tea throughout Europe. The tea trade with China and the Opium Wars, its impact on the US, and the First World War will be discussed, and the current status of tea today. Tea samples will be provided!

Youth Programs

Bilingual Story Hour
Monday, December 8, 10am

Practice using your home language or learn a new language with the Community Teamwork Family Resource Network! Ages 0-6.

Gingerbread House Making!
Monday, December 8, Two Sessions: 3:45pm and 6pm

Decorate your very own gingerbread house with graham crackers and candy! Kids can use frosting and graham crackers to construct a house of their own design. Optional: To make your structure stronger and make the construction process easier, attendees can bring a milk carton (8 fl oz or smaller) to use as a base. Kids of All Ages

Silhouette Portrait Craft
Tuesday, December 9, 6pm

Make silhouette portraits to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth! Using the Cricut, we'll mimic the 19th century hollow cut technique with paper and frames. Teens & Adults

Virtual: Playful Pathways —

Parent Book Club
Wednesday, December 10, 7pm

Join this once-a-month book club for busy parents and read one book at a time over the course of a few months! Our next read is *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. Because this event will be held via Zoom, children are welcome to be in attendance. Recommended for parents and caregivers of children of all ages.

Crafternoon
Thursday, December 11, 3:45

Make a fun craft with us during Crafternoon! Grades 4-8

Teen Leadership Council
Friday, December 12, 3pm

Are you interested in advocating for what you want at WML? Have you volunteered before, but want to commit to more? Join our Teen Leadership Council! Grades 7-12

Fleece Fest
Saturday, December 13, 10am-4pm

Families, come to the library on Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. to pick out a new-to-you coat (sizes babies through teen) to keep (no donation required)!

Pop-Tart Candy Cottages
Saturday, December 13, 2pm

Join us for a WML tradition: crafting delicious candy cottages out of Pop-Tarts in this wintry, sugary program! Grades 6-12

Additional Information

Library Resource: Mango Languages
Access Mango Languages through the WML Library! Mango is the only personalized, adaptive language-learning experience that provides the tools and guidance you need to expand your language skills wherever and however you learn best. Visit www.wilmlibrary.org/econtent/research for more info.

Save the Date!
Mark your calendars for an evening with author and local sportscaster Michael Holley, on May 14! A Boston sports journalist, author and broadcaster, Michael Holley hosts shows on NBC Sports Boston and 98.5 The Sports Hub, while teaching at Boston University. A former Boston Globe journalist, he's also appeared on ESPN and Peacock. There will be a cash bar, book sales & autograph signing. This is

a free event, open to all.

Book Store Next Door
Celebrate the winter holidays with the Friends of the Library Bookstore Next Door! All November and December holiday-themed books are half-off to help you give the gift of literature this season. While the store will be open for last-minute shopping on Saturday, Dec. 20, it will be closed the following dates: Wednesday, Nov. 26, Wednesday, Dec. 24, Saturday, Dec. 27 and Wednesday, Dec. 31. In January, the Bookstore Next Door will be open Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through March.

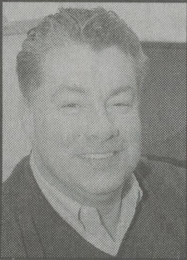
Museum Passes
The library has discounted passes to your favorite Massachusetts museums, attractions, and state parks. Find the full list by visiting www.wilmlibrary.org/services/mp.

WML In-Person & Virtual Programming
Registration is required for most in-person programs and is required for all virtual programs, as you will need to register in order to receive the Zoom link. You can register on our website at www.wilmlibrary.org or by calling (978) 658-2967.

Advertisement

It's Your Money

by Todd Brisbois



Myth-busting federal tax refunds

Many taxpayers file their federal tax returns and then eagerly anticipate details about their refund. The best way to check the status of a refund is through the Where's My Refund? tool, the IRS2Go app, or by signing in to the taxpayer's IRS online account. But many people mistakenly think there are better ways to get their refund status. Here are some of the myths about tax refunds.

Myth: Calling the IRS, a tax software provider or a tax professional will provide a more accurate refund date.

Many people think talking to the IRS, tax software provider or their tax professional is the best way to find out when they will get their refund. There is no need to call the IRS unless Where's My Refund? says to do so.

Taxpayers that do want refund info by phone can call the automated refund hotline at 800-829-1954. This hotline has the same information as the Where's My Refund? tool.

Myth: Ordering a tax transcript is a secret way to get a refund date.

A tax transcript will not help taxpayers find out when they will get their refund. IRS tools like Where's My Refund? will tell taxpayers if their refund is approved and sent.

Myth: Where's My Refund? must be wrong because there's no deposit date yet

Where's My Refund? on both IRS.gov and the IRS2Go mobile app are updated once a day, usually at night. Even though the IRS issues most refunds within 21 days, it's possible a refund may take longer. Taxpayers should also consider the time it takes for the banks to post the refund to their account. People waiting for a refund in the mail should plan for the time it takes a check to arrive. If the IRS needs more information to process a tax return, the agency will contact the taxpayer by mail.

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Stoneham man indicted by federal grand jury for ATM explosion in Woburn

BOSTON — A Stoneham man was indicted by a federal grand jury on Nov. 20, 2025 for allegedly using an explosive to damage an ATM in Woburn.

Christopher Silva, 43, was indicted on one count of maliciously damaging by means of an explosive real property used in and affecting interstate commerce. Silva was arrested and charged by complaint in October 2025 and remains in custody pending trial. He will be arraigned in federal court in Boston on Dec. 9, 2025.

According to the charging documents, shortly after 4 a.m. on Sept. 4, 2025, Silva, wearing a blue balaclava over his face and a black jumpsuit, allegedly approached an ATM at Eastern Bank in Woburn. It is alleged that Silva then placed an explosive device on the ATM and ran away. Several seconds later, the device exploded, causing significant damage to the frame and lower right section of the ATM. Silva was allegedly identified through DNA evidence and surveillance footage.

The charge of maliciously damaging by explosive property used in and affecting interstate commerce provides for a sentence of at least five years in prison, up to three of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes that govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

United States Attorney Leah B. Foley; Ted E. Docks, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division; and Colonel Geoffrey D. Noble, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the Woburn and Stoneham Police Departments. Assistant U.S. Attorney Allegra Flamm of the Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting the case.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.



▲ Pictured are Building Blocks students, from left, Addison Jones, Abigail Giliberti, Ava Donaghue, Lillian Melkonian, Quinn Keegan, Delia Moore, Nico Malasco, Ethan Alvord, Tucker Sargent, and Thea Pennell. (Courtesy photo)

With the generosity of their Building Blocks families and teachers from Tewksbury, Lowell and surrounding towns, Building Blocks was able to donate food to 10 local families in need this Thanksgiving. They also had a few leftovers that they were happy to surprise the amazing Tewksbury fire and police departments, too!

► Pictured are Building Blocks students, back, from left: Morgan Ouellette, Ella Abcunas, Fiona Loring, Sabrina Harris, Scarlet Bonno, Harrison Forbes, Rhett Lemelin; middle, from left: Braylon Wilson, Aaron Ambrose, Evander Bourgeois, Niall Gamache, Brayden Hopkins, William Mullin; front, from left: Ruby Romanowsky, Antoinette Rourke; kneeling, from left: Jack Jasset and Noah Hanafin. (Courtesy photo)



Building Blocks donates food to 10 local families this Thanksgiving

Massachusetts wins over \$105M in federal funding for new buses across the state

BOSTON — The Healey-Driscoll Administration and Massachusetts Congressional delegation celebrated that five Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) have won \$105.7 million in federal funding to modernize their bus fleets and facilities. The funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA)'s Low or No Emissions Grant Program and the Buses and Bus Facilities Program will support the purchase of zero and low-emission buses and upgrades to facilities.

The awarded grants are going to the MBTA, Merrimack Valley Transit Authority (MeVa), Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA), Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA), and Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA).

"Low and no emission buses deliver smoother rides, lower costs and healthier air," said Governor Maura Healey. "These funds will help regional transit authorities across the state purchase new buses and deliver the service that the people of Massachusetts deserve. I'm grateful for the team at MassDOT, the MBTA and our regional transit authorities, as well as for Senators Warren and Markey and our Congressional delegation for their strong leadership to secure this funding."

"With these awards, communities from the Berkshires to Boston will be able to modernize their bus fleets and keep their infrastructure in a state of good repair so people can affordably and reliably get to work, school, medical appointments, and recreational opportunities," said Senator Edward J. Markey. "I'm grateful to Governor Healey, Senator Warren, our federal congressional delegation, and our local partners for our work to make this funding a reality. We're on the road to better and more reliable bus service."

"Reliable, affordable public transit is a lifeline for families in Central and Western Massachusetts," said Representative Jim McGovern (MA-02). "This federal investment will

help our regional transit authorities replace aging buses, cut harmful emissions, and keep riders safe and moving. It means better service for workers, students, and seniors who depend on public transportation every single day. I'm grateful to Senators Markey and Warren, Governor Healey, and all our partners who worked to secure these funds. Together, we're delivering real improvements that strengthen our communities and support a cleaner, more sustainable future for our commonwealth."

"There's been no shortage of political divisiveness and chaos in Washington lately, but my focus remains where it's always been — on delivering for the hardworking families I represent," said Representative Lori Trahan (MA-03). "That means fighting for investments that make daily life more affordable and more efficient for folks across our entire district. With these federal investments, our families, workers, and students will have access to new LRTA and MEVA buses that will help reduce costs for riders, improve reliability, and make it easier for families to get where they need to go."

"Massachusetts is leading the way toward the healthier, more affordable future that working families deserve. This transformative investment in clean buses is the latest win in Democrats' fight for faster, easier, and more sustainable commutes. I'm proud to be working alongside Governor Healey and our state leaders to strengthen the Commonwealth's public transit, and I look forward to seeing these dollars put to work," said Democratic Whip Katherine Clark (MA-05).

"Massachusetts is leading the nation in building a cleaner and more reliable public transit system, and this investment will lead to more reliable service, lower emissions, and a transit system that connects more people to jobs, schools, and opportunity. I'll continue to work to bring more federal resources to Massachusetts to deliver real progress for riders across Massachusetts," said Representative Seth Moulton

(MA-06).

"Transit justice is an economic, climate, and racial justice issue, and our policies and budgets must reflect that. These meaningful federal investments will help make our transportation infrastructure more safe and sustainable while connecting folks in the Massachusetts 7th and beyond to essential resources like jobs, schools, healthcare, and the grocery store," said Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07), Co-Chair of the Future of Transportation Caucus. "I'll keep pushing to invest in public transit as the public good that it is."

The projects that received grant funding include:

Low or No Emission Grant Program Awards (Total: \$98,381,757)

This program provides funding for the purchase or lease of zero- and low-emission transit buses, as well as supporting facilities. The majority of the funding was awarded through this program:

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA): \$78.6 million for the Enhanced Hybrid (EEH) Bus Procurement. This furthers the MBTA's goal to fully transition to a zero-emission fleet by 2040, by maintaining the diesel-electric hybrid fleet in a state of good repair while modernization initiatives are underway

Merrimack Valley Transit Authority (MeVa): \$7.2 million to support the continued modernization and expansion of MeVa's fleet, including the addition of six expansion 40-foot hybrid electric vehicles.

Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA): \$7.2 million to modernize the fleet, including the procurement of six fully accessible Gillig 35FT Hybrid-Electric Heavy-Duty Low-Floor Fixed Route Buses to replace six 2016 diesel buses.

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA): \$5.4 million to replace four 35-foot vintage 2018 Gillig Diesel heavy-duty buses with four 40-foot Gillig Low Floor Hybrid Electric heavy-duty transit vehicles. This next-generation electric hybrid system allows BRTA to achieve pure electric propulsion

for up to 50% EV time during daily operation.

Buses & Bus Facilities Program Awards (Total: \$7,475,955)

This program funds capital projects to purchase, rehabilitate, or lease buses and related equipment, and to construct, purchase, rehabilitate, or lease bus-related facilities.

Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA): \$4.5 million for a Northampton Transit Bus Garage Renovation. The planned renovation will update the entire bus maintenance area, including the replacement of three existing in-ground bus lifts, which will improve the ability to maintain buses and increase employee safety.

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA): \$3 million for Preventive Maintenance and Facility Equipment.

"The Healey-Driscoll Administration has made it a priority to pursue every dollar available and I'm proud of our collective teams across our Regional Transit Authorities and the MBTA for their collaboration and hard work to secure this \$105.7 million in competitive grants that will enable us to modernize our bus fleets," said Interim Transportation Secretary Phillip Eng.

"With the support of our federal partners, these grants will improve service, safety and accessibility for all with new efficient buses that give the public the option to choose transit and leave their car behind."

"These grants allow MassDOT partners the opportunity to deploy new technologies that help modernize the public transit fleet while supporting progress toward cleaner air," said Undersecretary and State Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver. "The Com-

monwealth's transportation system is truly a network comprised of multiple modes, and through programs like this, we can accelerate innovation and reduce traffic congestion."

"Winning these grants is another positive step forward for the Commonwealth to modernize and decarbonize our transportation assets together with our partners at the RTAs, the MBTA, and the federal government," said Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Rail and Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger. "Under the Healey-Driscoll administration we are investing in public transportation by expanding mobility options for people to travel which spurs economic growth, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and improves quality of life."

The FTA Low or No Emission Grant Program provides funding to state and local governmental authorities for the purchase or lease of zero-emission and low-emission transit buses as well as acquisition, construc-

tion, and leasing of required supporting facilities. Funding is allocated to projects on a competitive basis, from proposals submitted to the FTA in response to a Notice of Funding Opportunity.

Additional information can be found on the FTA's website: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/lowno>

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has prioritized improving public transportation across the state. Under the leadership of General Manger Eng, the T has removed all slow zones for the first time in 20 years, increased speeds, opened new lines, hired thousands of workers, upgraded stations, implemented tap-to-pay and a low-income fares program, and more. As a result, the MBTA's commuter rail ridership has rebounded at the highest level nationally, surpassing pre-pandemic ridership.

Additionally, in partnership with the Legislature, the Healey-Driscoll Administration has made Regional Transit Authority service free across the state.

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Upcoming local events

December 5, Tewksbury Hospital Craft Fair, Saunders Building, 365 East St., 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Toys, candles, art, clothing, jewelry, home decor, children's, baby handmade items, wood products, glass, custom candles, food, cards and more. Food trucks on site. Have your picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus!

December 5, Holiday Tree Lighting, Tewksbury Common, 5 - 7 p.m., Bring an unwrapped toy to donate. Marshmallow roasting, ice sculpture, hot cocoa, and more!

December 5, Pie Social, Tewksbury Congregational Church, 5:30 - 8 p.m., free pictures with Santa. East Street.

December 6, Tewksbury Together Festival of Trees 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Tewksbury Hospital Chapel, 300 East St.

December 6, St. Williams Christmas Fair, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., 1351 Main St., Raffles, crafts.

December 12, Veterans Holiday Luncheon, 11 a.m. at the Senior Center. There is limited seating for this event and reservations ARE REQUIRED. Call 978-640-4485 to register for this event.

December 13, VFW Post 8164 Kids Xmas Party, up to age 10 years old. 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at TJ Calahan's Function Room. Join us for crafts, food, and a visit from Santa and

the Grinch. Bring wrapped gift with child's name. RSVP Dec. 5. 978.284.9880 or 781.727.3340.

Until December 15 - Coat Drive, Tewksbury Health Department, lower level. New or clean, gently used coats will be collected.

December 18, Tewksbury Indoor Community Market, Senior Center, 4 - 7 p.m. Vendors, food trucks and more! Tewksburymarket.com Additional market dates are Jan. 9 and Feb. 12- save the dates!

Public Health Museum, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 365 East St. on the campus of Tewksbury Hospital. Publichealthmuseum.org

Book Store Next Door, Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Book Store is staffed by volunteers from the Friends of the Wilmington Public Library. All proceeds support library programs. Next to Wilmington Public Library.

Sundays, Lowell Streetcar Museum, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Adults \$3, seniors and youth age 3-12 \$2, children under 3 are free. Cash only. 25 Shattuck St., Lowell.

Wilmington Town Museum, Mondays and Tuesdays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Harnden Tavern, 430 Salem St. (Route 62), Wilmington

Middlesex Canal Museum, Saturdays and Sundays, noon - 4 p.m., 71 Faulkner St., North Billerica

Healey-Driscoll Administration reaffirms importance of Hepatitis B vaccine for all newborns

BOSTON — The Healey-Driscoll Administration underscored the critical importance of maintaining the existing hepatitis B vaccine schedule to safeguard newborns. The schedule includes a hepatitis B vaccine birth dose within 24 hours of delivery, regardless of the hepatitis B infection status of the parent, and completion of the full vaccination series within the first 18 months of life. The hepatitis B vaccine is widely recognized as one of the safest and most effective vaccines ever developed.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is issuing its recommendation ahead of the scheduled meeting of the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) on Dec. 4 and 5. At that meeting, ACIP has proposed a discussion of and potential vote on changing the hepatitis B vaccine schedule for infants. Massachusetts is committed to taking all necessary steps to preserve continued access to the hepatitis B vaccine for newborns, regardless of any future ACIP action.

"The misinformation coming from the Trump administration about vaccines is dangerous and puts the health of our children and families at risk," said Governor Maura Healey. "We must continue to be clear: Vac-

cines — including the hepatitis B vaccine for newborns — are safe, effective, and lifesaving. Massachusetts will continue to base our public health decisions on science and make sure that people have access to the vaccines that they want and need."

"For more than three decades, the hepatitis B birth dose has been a critical safety net for families, preventing infections that can pass unknowingly from parent to child. This vaccine is safe and effective, and it has reduced hepatitis B in children and teens by 99% nationwide," said Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD, Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. "Our responsibility is to use the best science to protect every person we serve — and newborns deserve the strongest start we can give them. The science here is clear: this vaccine is safe and effective — and it saves lives."

"As a practicing infectious disease doctor, I have cared for patients suffering with chronic liver disease due to hepatitis B. Becoming infected as a newborn can lead to a lifetime of severe liver disease, including liver failure, and is almost entirely preventable," said Bisola Ojikutu, MD, MPH, FIDSA, Commissioner of Public

Health for the City of Boston. "Our goal is to ensure that our residents have access to every evidence-based tool available to keep families and children healthy. Universal hepatitis B vaccination at birth followed by completion of the vaccination series has proven to be a highly safe and effective way to protect infants and children from infection."

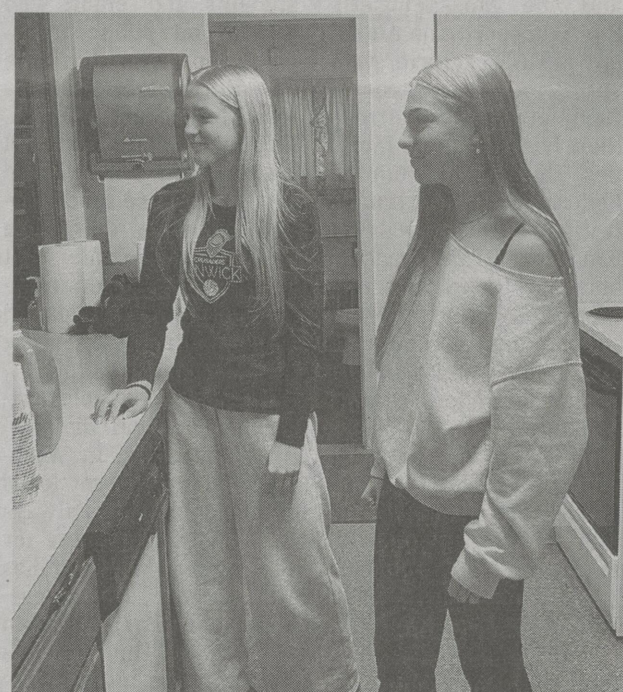
The DPH recommendation also reflects a consensus statement from the Northeast Public Health Collaborative, a coalition of public health agencies working together to share expertise, improve coordination, enhance capacity, strengthen regional readiness, and advance evidence-based public health.

The group's shared goal is to protect the health, safety and well-being of all residents by providing information based on science, data, and evidence, while working to preserve equitable access to vaccines, medications, and services.

Hepatitis B is a viral infection that attacks the liver and can lead to serious long-term health problems, including chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, and liver cancer. Because the virus can be passed from an infected mother to the baby during birth, newborns are at particular risk of developing lifelong infec-

tion. Administering the hepatitis B vaccine birth dose and completing the full hepatitis B vaccine series in the first 18 months of life protects infants and children during a vulnerable time of their lives. Delaying vaccination misses a crucial window of potential exposure, putting infants at risk. Clinicians should continue to offer hepatitis B vaccine to all newborns at birth and administer the full vaccination series in accordance with the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendations.

Governor Healey has taken a number of steps to protect public health in Massachusetts, especially when it comes to the availability and affordability of vaccines. She signed legislation allowing the DPH to issue its own vaccine recommendations rooted in science and data. She's criticized Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. for directing the CDC to post false information about links between vaccines and autism. She directed the Commissioner of Public Health to issue a standing order for all Massachusetts residents to be able to get the COVID vaccine, directed health insurers to cover COVID vaccines, and made it easier to administer flu vaccines.



What if someone really went rogue like this? on the December Book Stew

Long-time US State Department employee Tom Navratil served in many locales during his long tenure, including Macedonia, Mexico, Russia, and Japan. He also encountered many overly ambitious colleagues and more than a few absurd situations.

"Dog's Breakfast," a novel that reads like a mash-up of M*A*S*H* itself and the 1997 movie Wag the Dog, opens with the Vodanian ambassador's dog suffering from stomach issues. This seemingly minor incident rips into a border war, manipulated by the second-in-command at the Embassy, Deputy Chief of Mission

Andy Pulano.

Feeling stuck in a mid-European backwater and impatient for promotion, Andy plots to embarrass his boss and to thwart the investigation by rookie Tara Zidani, who is charged with discovering the cause of the dog's possible poisoning: who did it and why?

Andy's secretive manipulations cause rising tensions between Vodania and neighboring Pazaria in this clever comic novel that mocks skirmishes both in and outside the embassy grounds.

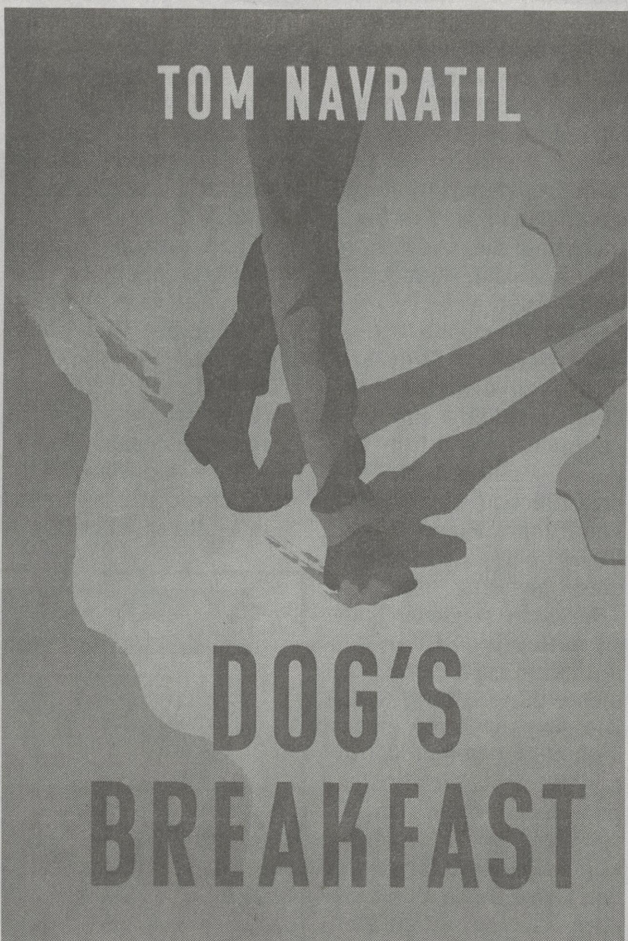
Book Stew host Eileen MacDougall and author Tom Navratil share their favorite passages from

the book.

Check out this new Book Stew episode on WCTV on Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Wednesdays at 8 p.m., Friday at 7 p.m., and Saturdays at noon. Or copy the links below into your browser

and enjoy!

YouTube video:
<https://tinyurl.com/bookstew144-yt>
Soundcloud podcast:
<https://tinyurl.com/bookstew144-sc>



WPD serves Thanksgiving Dinner to Deming Way residents

The Wilmington Police Department was proud to host their annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the senior residents of Deming Way. Officers, joined by student volunteers Kate Haggerty and Carrie Gillis, above, served a full turkey dinner with all the fixings. This tradition is more than a meal. It's a chance to spend real time with senior residents, share conversations, and strengthen the relationships that hold the community together. "We're grateful for everyone who joined us and for another year of keeping this tradition alive," the department said. (Courtesy photos)

Town Crier

Tewksbury - Wilmington

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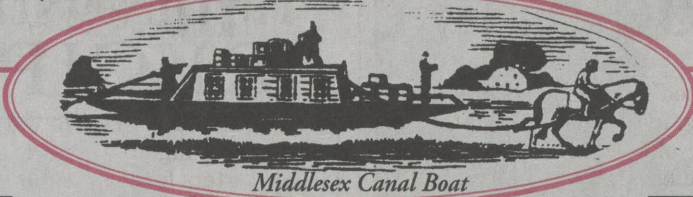
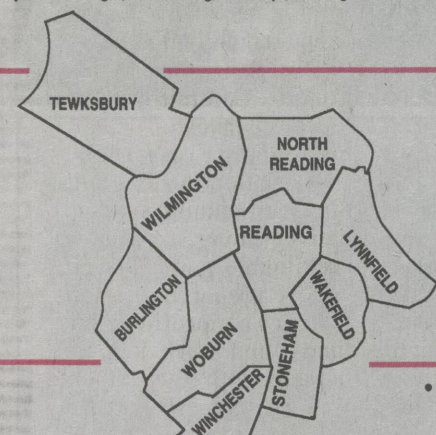
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Send Letters to the Editor to:
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All submissions must be accompanied by full name, address, and daytime contact information for verification purposes.

Letters must be e-mailed by noon on Monday in order for consideration the same week's edition.

MIDDLESEX EAST appearing in Daily Times - Chronicle (Reading, Woburn, Winchester, Burlington, Wakefield),
Lynnfield Villager, No. Reading Transcript, Wilmington & Tewksbury Town Crier, Stoneham Independent

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 4, 2025 B1



Middlesex East

A weekly regional section reaching 10 communities

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M.E. Santa asking for community donations to help those less fortunate

He's back at it again — the Middlesex East Santa.

For the 36th straight year, the M.E. Santa is stepping forward as the quiet but dependable "Plan B" behind the Salvation Army's holiday fundraising efforts, providing a local lifeline at a time when the traditional Red Kettle campaign is facing mounting challenges across Massachusetts.

Created by the Middlesex East newspapers in the late 1980s, the M.E. Santa offers residents, families, clubs and community groups an easy way to support the Salvation Army without needing to pass a kettle or hear a familiar bell. With more holiday shopping shifting online and fewer volunteers available to staff kettles at retail stores, the local program has become a crucial part of the organization's local, seasonal work.

"Thanks for doing this — and thank you for your continued support," said Michael Skoog, Senior Field Representative for the Salvation Army, who has worked with the M.E. publications for more than two decades. "This effort means more than the dollars themselves. It spreads the good work of the Salvation Army all year long."

Rising Need Across Massachusetts

As families across the Commonwealth face rising housing costs, inflation and lingering economic pressures, the Salvation Army says demand for its services is higher than in recent memory. The organization continues to provide Christmas gifts, food, help with utility bills, and shelter to those without a home.

The theme of this year's statewide campaign is "Give With JOY."

"Each act of generosity, large or small, helps The Salvation Army make the season brighter for families across Massachusetts," said Major Elijah Kahn, General Secretary of The Salvation Army Massachusetts Division. "Our volunteers and donors embody the spirit of the holidays and make it possible for us to bring joy where it's needed most."

The Massachusetts Division is aiming to raise more than \$2.3 million through the 2025 Red Kettle Campaign, which launches in November in communities statewide, including the Merrimack Valley, the North Shore, MetroWest, Greater Boston, Cape Cod and South-eastern Massachusetts, the Route 2 corridor, and Central and Western Massachusetts.

On average, the Salvation Army says each volunteer bell ringer raises enough money to provide nearly 250 meals in their own community.

Local Impact: Donations Stay in Middlesex East

Every donation made through the M.E. Santa stays in the local Middlesex East communities served by the Daily Times Chronicle and its sister papers.

"Food insecurity is now the biggest concern across the board," Skoog said. "Families who have never asked for help before are showing up for the first time."

The Salvation Army's local work is often immediate and personal. Earlier this year, the organization helped when federal SNAP benefits were withheld from families.

"These are our neighbors," Salvation Army officials said. "Your kindness is an answered prayer."

Kettle Volunteers Desperately Needed

While the M.E. Santa continues to grow, the traditional Red Kettle Campaign remains the backbone of the Salvation Army's holiday fundraising. But with fewer retail stores,

• M.E. SANTA TO B2



DOING THE
MOST GOOD
ONE LIFE AT A TIME.

Please help us help the needy families in our area

M.E. Santa hangs out
the **red kettle** for the
36th holiday season



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/TOWN _____

Please accept my donation of

\$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other _____

Please mail to: "M.E. SANTA" c/o Daily Times Chronicle
36 Commerce Way, Unit 410 • Woburn, MA 01801



HOLIDAY MUSIC ENSEMBLE CELEBRATION



Mix, mingle, and enjoy the captivating sounds of the 20-piece all women's jazz band, The Jazzebbles! Savor appetizers and specialty cocktails prepared by our culinary team as you celebrate with new and old friends, family, and associates. We can't wait to welcome you to our community!

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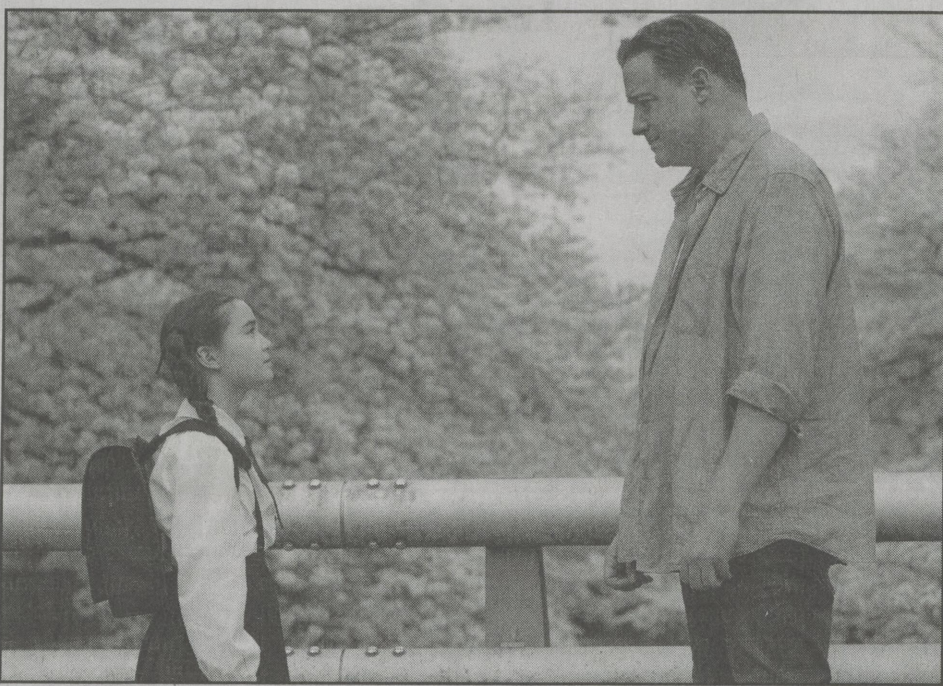
354 Merrimack St, Lawrence, MA

For Tickets: (844) 214-7469

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'Extraordinary!' -NBC's Today Show

LIVE
VOCALS



FAMILY GUY - Shannon Gorman, left, and Brendan Fraser in a scene from "Rental Family" released by Searchlight Pictures.
(James Lisle/Searchlight Pictures via AP)

Movie Reviews & Box Office News

Brendan Fraser is an actor with a winning heart in sweet drama 'Rental Family'

It sounds rather like a mixed compliment to say of an actor that he's persuasive at playing, well, a mediocre actor.

But then, this is Brendan Fraser we're talking about. The man seems to become more emphatically human with each role, each passing year, each new wrinkle. And what's more human, or at least more vulnerable and relatable, than mediocrity?

It is this essential vulnerability that keeps Fraser's latest venture, filmmaker Hikari's Tokyo-set "Rental Family," from inching over that thin line between heartwarming and totally sappy.

Certainly the film has a fascinating premise, one that would have worked well enough were it totally fictional — but works better with the knowledge that it's based on fact. There are, indeed, companies in Japan like the one at the center of Hikari's film — businesses that "rent out" actors to play roles in people's everyday lives.

In "Rental Family," these actors play lovers, parents, friends, admirers, people to cry at a funeral or cheer at a karaoke bar — whatever a client needs to address whatever they're missing. There are scenarios that raise definite moral questions. But these companies do offer something basic and essential: human connection.

Fraser's Phillip Vandarpleog, too, is looking for connection, not to mention gainful employment. This middle-aged — and middling — actor originally came to Tokyo to star in a big toothpaste commercial. But that was seven years ago, and acting gigs have dried up.

As good as Fraser is at radiating humanity, he's maybe even better at projecting discomfort — within his own skin, and within his large frame. And that's what's striking as we first meet Phillip, rushing to catch the subway, looking and feeling so different from everyone else.

After yet another fruitless audition, he makes his way home to a dark apartment where he eats takeout and gazes out into other apartments where people are living their lives, together.

Soon his agent calls with a quick gig: he needs a dark suit, and the role is "sad American." He finds himself not at a shoot but at a funeral. That's strange enough, even before the man in the coffin lifts his head and reacts to one of the loving eulogies.

Turns out everyone's an actor, hired by the man to remind him his existence is worthwhile. The head of the rental company, Shinji (Takehiro Hira) tells Phillip to come by the office. There, he explains what they do.

"You sell people!" Phillip exclaims. "We sell emotion," Shinji counters. He further explains that mental health issues are stigmatized in Japan, and therapy thus not always a viable option.

A reluctant Phillip takes on a new assignment: In an elaborate wedding (beautifully rendered by director Hikari), he plays a groom, fooling the bride's parents and family. At first he almost botches the job by hiding in the bathroom, mortified.

Soon, though, he's a regular. There's even a cute montage of his various "rental" gigs. In these transactional relationships, everyone seems to be getting what they want. But then two new jobs come up that will expose the moral complications of this line of work.

One involves an aging movie star (Akira Emoto, poignant) who's fast losing his memory. His daughter hires Phillip to pose as a journalist and document his life. Things get dicey when the man begs Phillip to travel secretly with him to another town on an unexplained mission — expressly against the daughter's wishes.

Then there's Mia. The young girl's single mother hires Phillip to pose as Mia's long-absent father during the admissions process for an exclusive school, so they

proud to bring to the stage."

The concert features longtime accompanist Miles Goldberg and percussionist Juan Pablo Faunzez.

Ticket Prices:
Adults: \$25 | Seniors \$20 | Ages 6-18: \$15 | Card to Culture: \$5 | Children 5 and under: Free

Tickets can be purchased at <https://tickets.chorusconnection.com/ircc/events/1540> or from ipswichrivercommunitychorus.org. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

This concert is made possible, in part, by grants from the North Reading, Reading, Tewksbury and Wilmington Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

HomeNewsHere RECIPE

SHEPHERD'S PIE



COMFORT FOOD - This is just the kind of dish we crave during cooler months. When the weather calls for comfort food, it's hard to beat a substantial stew of beef sirloin and vegetables, topped with creamy mashed potatoes and baked until everything is warm and bubbly. This shepherd's recipe has a couple of secret shortcuts that'll help you have it on the table in under an hour—perfect for a weeknight meal!

STEPS

Step 1 - Heat oven to 375°F. Spray 11x7-inch (2-quart) glass baking dish with cooking spray.

Step 2 - In 12-inch skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Cook onion in oil 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, until soft. Add beef; cook 5 to 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until thoroughly cooked. Drain.

Step 3 - Add mixed vegetables, tomato paste, salt and pepper; cook over medium heat 5 minutes, stirring frequently, until vegetables are hot.

Step 4 - Add beef to skillet; cook 5 to 7 minutes, stirring occasionally, until thoroughly cooked. Drain.

Step 5 - In small bowl, mix broth and flour with whisk. Add broth mixture to beef mixture. Heat to boiling; cook 3 minutes, stirring constantly, until thick. Spoon beef mixture into baking dish.

Step 6 - Spread mashed potatoes over beef mixture.

Step 7 - Bake 20 minutes or until golden brown.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 small onion, finely chopped (1/3 cup)
- 1 1/2 lb ground beef sirloin
- 2 cups frozen mixed vegetables (from 12-oz bag)
- 3 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 3/4 cups Progresso™ beef-flavored broth (from 32-oz carton)
- 2 tablespoons Gold Medal™ all-purpose flour
- 1 package (20 oz) refrigerated mashed potatoes

can present as a two-parent family.

The catch: Mia needs to believe the story to act truthful, so she can't know Phillip is an actor. They will need to spend some bonding time together.

It's not difficult to see where this is going. Of course, Mia (charming 11-year-old newcomer Shannon Mahina Gorman), initially reticent, will come to love the dad she didn't know she had. Of course, Phillip will develop feelings as well. Their bonding scenes, in art class and at a street carnival, pop with gorgeous color; Phillip's life is literally becoming brighter. (Hikari, who co-wrote with Stephen Blahut, excels at these beau-

tiful urban scenes, which may have many checking airfares to Tokyo.)

But the ruse strains credulity. Honestly, is this a way anyone with a brain would treat a young girl? Trick her into thinking she has a father, only to cause pain when she learns he's not?

The film will try to put a neat bow on this subplot by the end, along with a few other twists and turns along the way.

Some of these moments land more successfully than others. It's not clear, though, exactly how we're supposed to feel about the whole "rental family" phenomenon. In some ways, people get what they want and no-

body gets hurt — like that bride at the beginning, who can now go off and live with the love of her life, her girlfriend.

But other scenarios are fuzzier, and the broader message may simply be that genuine connection, that holy grail we all crave, can sometimes be found in the oddest of places — even in a bizarre no man's land between fake relationships and real ones.

"Rental Family," a Searchlight Pictures release, has been rated PG-13 "for thematic elements, some strong language, and suggestive material." Running time: 103 minutes. Two and a half stars out of four.



At South Church in Andover, Dec. 13 & Dec. 14

IRCC celebrates 'Christmas Around the World' in concert

Celebrate the magic of the season with the Ipswich River Community Chorus at Christmas in Harmony: Songs from Around the World. The concert will be held at South Church in Andover on Saturday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 p.m.

Over 80 singers—representing 30 communities across the North Shore and Merrimack Valley—will share a festive program of international holiday music. The program offers a vibrant tapestry of melodies that reflect the beauty and diversity of seasonal celebrations across cultures.

"Exploring global holiday music has been an inspiring journey for our singers," said Artistic Director Katherine Foley. "Each piece offers a glimpse into how different cultures express hope, light, and celebration—universal themes we're

CHRISTMAS CONCERT - The Ipswich River Community Chorus features over 80 singers—representing 30 communities across the North Shore and Merrimack Valley. The upcoming concert will feature a vibrant tapestry of melodies that reflect the beauty and diversity of seasonal celebrations across cultures. (Courtesy Photo)

• M.E. SANTA FROM BI

fewer shoppers carrying cash and fewer volunteers available, the organization reports challenges in nearly every region.

"The number of kettles we have to staff is a stark reminder of how great the need is for thousands of people struggling to afford housing, heat, electricity, groceries and other necessities," said Major Everett Henry, Divisional Commander for Massachusetts. "Volunteers are desperately needed in just about every community we serve."

Residents may volunteer for two-hour shifts, while service groups, teams, choirs, musicians, students and families are encouraged to sign up for full days or rotating coverage.

How to Support the 2025 Campaign

Local residents can donate directly to the M.E. Santa by mailing contributions to:

M.E. Santa
c/o Daily Times Chronicle
36 Commerce Way, Unit 410
Woburn, MA 01801

To volunteer at a Red Kettle or donate online, visit SalvationArmyMA.org/red-kettle.

Whether it comes as a small envelope slipped into the mail, a family pooling together a gift in a loved one's honor, or a volunteer ringing a bell on a cold December morning, each contribution stays local — offering a meal, warm clothing, a safe night's sleep and renewed hope.

Once again, the M.E. Santa is ready to deliver for Middlesex East.

• Real Estate Transfers •

BURLINGTON

27 Blackhorse Ln was sold to 27 Black Horse Lane LLC by Cassaro Elaine L Est and Elinete A Oliveira for \$700,000 on 11/10/25

NORTH READING

320 Martins Lndg #506 was sold to Jody E Ardizzoni by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$933,255 on 11/10/25
320 Martins Lndg #505 was sold to Denise Benner by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$654,340 on 11/12/25

320 Martins Lndg #507 was sold to Ellen J Van Beuren RET and Ellen J Van Beuren by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$1,016,190 on 11/12/25

320 Martins Lndg #405 was sold to Laiosa Ft and Marianne L Thompson by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$540,000 on 11/12/25

320 Martins Lndg #409 was sold to Peter G Scapicchio and Marialisa D Scapicchio by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$718,545 on 11/10/25

READING

152 Johnson Woods Dr #152 was sold to 152 Johnson Woods Drive T and Marcy K Shack by Johnson Woods Realty Cor for \$1,695,000 on 11/12/25

17 Palmer Hill Ave was sold to Tyler Pounds and Caroline K Pounds by Wood Beckwith Ft and Geoffrey C Beckwith for \$1,210,500 on 11/12/25

52 Sanborn St #204 was sold to Leah Emma and Arthur Emma by 52sanborn204 LLC for \$682,069 on 11/12/25

18 Wescroft Rd was sold to Brian C Townson Lt and Brian C Townson by Marcelo Sieburger for \$815,000 on 11/10/25

STONEHAM

7 Everett St was sold to Maxwell Hubbard and Maeve T Kilbride by Robyn R Radka and Marie R Radka for \$795,000 on 11/12/25

122 Main St #404 was sold to Judith E Caton by Stoneham 122 Main LLC for \$359,000 on 11/12/25

6 Myrtle St was sold to Heather Reynolds by Laura Sherburne and Lucas C Brown for \$712,000 on 11/12/25

85 Oak St was sold to Jourdan Hourican and Michael Driscoll by David McCullough for \$715,000 on 11/12/25

7-9 Oriental Ct was sold to Alexander J Prokopenko and Alexandra P Prokopenko by Bleeker Properties LLC for \$525,000 on 11/12/25

39 Walsh Ave was sold to Cleora J Darcy and Stephen P Darcy by Micale Ft and Barbara J Martinez for \$930,000 on 11/12/25

80 Washington St was sold to Ashkon A Assemi and Mary E McMahon by Michael A Mouchantat and Lindsay S Wallace for \$703,000 on 11/12/25

TEWKSBURY

347 Astle St was sold to Gail Oconnor by Jones Irt and Karen M Stephens for \$565,000 on 11/12/25

8 Boisvert Rd was sold to Andrew McCormack by Erica I Newcomer for \$630,000 on 11/12/25

31 Marie St was sold to Mark Melo and Nicolette Melo by Patricia A Rauseo for \$700,000 on 11/12/25

WAKEFIELD

47 Aborn Ave was sold to Theo Klimstra and Sara Johnson by Sean A Hegarty and Karen Hegarty for \$855,000 on 11/10/25

3 Gladstone St was sold to Lianne Levine and Mark Olson Jr by Peter J Vitale and Elena R Vitale for \$859,900 on 11/12/25

7 Holland Rd was sold to Dyoh Tokunaga and Luiza G Tokunaga by Debra Ebert for \$565,000 on 11/12/25

214 Vernon St was sold to Tnt Franklin Realty LLC by Lawrence M Obrien 2nd for \$522,000 on 11/10/25

234 Water St #204 was sold to Erica French by Matthew P Ruggiero for \$405,000 on 11/10/25

WILMINGTON

27 Ashwood Ave was sold to Difraia Irt and Daniel M Conde by Joseph A Miara 3rd for \$1,785,000 on 11/10/25

15 Church St #302 was sold to Ruijun Huang and Qunda Xu by Scott C Oliphant for \$435,000 on 11/12/25

3 Powderhouse Cir was sold to Scott Briggs and Martha M Briggs by Michael P Fay and Patricia A Fay for \$815,000 on 11/10/25

WINCHESTER

166 Forest St was sold to Liang Chang and Ruiqiong Guo by Jingyi Lu and Weiming Yan for \$1,610,000 on 11/12/25

4 Harrington Rd was sold to 4 Harrington Road LLC by Margaret J Walsh T and Nancy P Sandreuter for \$1,250,000 on 11/10/25

WOBURN

273 Cambridge Rd #101 was sold to David Hintlian by Ralph Dagostino Ft and Ralph Dagostino for \$399,000 on 11/10/25

64 Garfield Ave was sold to Jason Santos LLC by Moore Loretta Est and Charles W Haggerty for \$430,000 on 11/12/25

15 Mason Way #15 was sold to Rimpyo Hong and Sunhwa Jung by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$1,199,999 on 11/12/25

9 Pilgrim Rd was sold to Kathleen Canney by Joanne L Cummings for \$550,000 on 11/12/25

60 Revere Rd was sold to Colin C Brown and Colleen T Doyle by Mary & A Daurora RET and Anthony Daurora for \$1,050,000 on 11/12/25

3 Richmond Park #1 was sold to 3 Richmond Park Unit 1 Rt and Gregory N Jones by Ccbd Lt and Colleen T Doyle for \$519,900 on 11/10/25

8 Roessler Rd was sold to Gfp Sre Woburn 8 LLC by Atlantic Oliver 8 Roessl for \$17,850,000 on 11/10/25

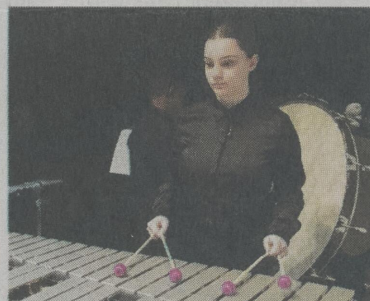
19 Sixth Rd #B was sold to Double D Holdings LLC by S And C Rt and Henry J Guidoboni for \$1,275,000 on 11/10/25

Northeast Massachusetts Youth Orchestras, Inc.

Join NMYO! Auditions being held for January



2ND SEMESTER AUDITIONS



Now accepting audition registrations, the Northeast Massachusetts Youth Orchestras (NMYO) is looking for young musicians to join its ensembles for the winter and spring session of its 2025-2026 Concert Season.

If your child is looking for a great place to play their instrument, perform in concert, and socialize with other young musicians who enjoy playing as much as they do, then NMYO is the perfect place!

String musicians, with at least one to two years of lessons, are invited to audition. Woodwind, brass, and percussion students, who have played for at least two years and are taking private lessons, are also welcome. Get more information, view audition standards, and register for your audition today at nmyo.org/auditions.

NMYO offers five groups this year including two levels of string ensembles, two full orchestras, and a wind ensemble for intermediate and advanced winds, brass, and percussion.

All NMYO ensembles will perform at the Afternoon of Spring Concerts in May. Symphony Orchestra musicians will also present a chamber music concert in March at the Shore Country Day School Theater.

NMYO's Gold Benefactor and Conductors Circle sponsors are the Cummings Properties, Massachusetts Cultural Council, Cape Ann Savings Bank, Coburn Charitable Society, Cross Insurance, Institution for Savings, Johnson String Instrument-Carriage House Violins, Milestone Financial Planning, and Avier Flight School.

ABOUT NMYO: NMYO provides youth musicians with exceptional ensemble training and opportunities for cognitive, social, and personal growth through musical performance and community service. Led by Music Director Michael Coelho, with an accomplished team of music professionals, NMYO's 150 musicians come from 40+ towns throughout northeast Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire and participate in one or more of six ensembles offered. The regular rehearsal and concert schedule is supplemented with master classes, enrichment days, chamber music, and community service outreach concerts to underserved populations. Rehearsals are held weekly just off I-95 and Route 1 in Topsfield/Boxford. NMYO is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. LEARN MORE - nmyo.org · info@nmyo.org · 978-309-9833.

ME Santa Needs You!

Sharing is Caring • All proceeds assist local families

Middlesex East Publications, in association with the Salvation Army will sponsor "M.E. Santa" this holiday season to benefit needy individuals and families in the area. In many past years, the Salvation Army has worked quietly within the communities. But this year it is asking for assistance due to increased pressure to provide services. Funds will be distributed locally in the M.E. communities which include:Wilmington, Tewksbury, No. Reading, Lynnfield, Reading, Stoneham, Burlington, Woburn, Wakefield and Winchester.

A list of contributors will be published in Middlesex East throughout December. Corporations and individuals are encouraged to include their names as part of their donations as efforts are made to promote the fund. The "M.E. Santa" effort is actually part of the Salvation Army's ongoing service program.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/TOWN _____
Please accept my donation of \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other _____
Please mail to: "M.E. SANTA" c/o Daily Times Chronicle 36 Commerce Way, Unit 410 • Woburn, MA 01801



PLEASE
HELP!

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ONE LIFE AT A TIME.

Donations should be mailed to:
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Woburn, MA 01801



Looking for new business?
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10 Towns - 10 Publications
Call 781-944-2200



Tewksbury Police Log

Male party arrested for OUI outside local restaurant

Monday, November 24

11:28 a.m. - Police reported a pickup truck with drywall at Main Street and Route 495 North. Mass DOT was contact.

7 p.m. - Billerica stated a white SUV driving erratically with possibly a known license plate at Whipple Road. Police sent and the units checked the area, but gone on arrival.

11:16 p.m. - Caller stated someone was trying to break in their room then they hung up and no contact on call back to Motel 6. Police sent. They spoke to the party and confirmed there was no one knocking on his door. It was people going in and out of other rooms.

Tuesday, November 25

2:55 a.m. - Police checked on a motor vehicle in Motel 6 parking lot. Police reported party checked out. Units cleared.

8:45 a.m. - Manager reported an African American male party was at-

tempted to do a fraudulent return of \$1,600 at Cracker Barrel Old Country Store. Police sent. They reported that party left prior to arrival. Officer filed a report.

9:59 a.m. - Caller requested an officer to come down because he got into an argument with another male party at Bright Bridge Credit Union. The caller was concerned that the other male wanted to fight him. Police sent. They confirmed just a minor argument, no threats were made.

1:18 p.m. - Employee requested a past employee was inside the store at Dunkin'. He was intoxicated and made threats. Police sent. They confirmed that party was no longer on scene and no crime was committed. Police reported party left on foot, not in a vehicle.

2:06 p.m. - Caller reported suspicious activities happening at Walmart. A six-foot African American male was holding a plaque that said, "raising money

for Tewksbury football" walking around asking for donations. Caller believed it was a scam because the man said it was for the football team to go to New York, but they were playing at Gillette Stadium. Police sent. Male party was gone on arrival.

2:55 p.m. - Caller reported a full needle was brought to the front desk and wanted an officer to go over and pick it up at Hilton Garden Inn. A few empty needles were found, as well. Police sent and would be disposing of those items at the station.

Wednesday, November 26

1:09 a.m. - Caller reported an individual revving a motorcycle up and down the street at Claire Street. Police sent. Area cleared. Party issue resolved.

7:53 a.m. - Caller stated a white van parked in front of his house with his windows fogged up at Whipple Road. While on the phone, another van pulled up. Police sent, but the vehicle was gone on arrival.

1:53 p.m. - Police assisted manager with helping moving a resident who did not want to leave but now left without incident at Fairfield In. A taxi would be responding to pick up the female.

8:22 p.m. - A 911 caller stated a male party yelling and threatening him and wanted him removed from the property at Motel 6. Police sent. They requested an evaluation for a male party feeling light headed. Brother came to pick up the male. Officer filed a report.

Thursday, November 27

4:50 a.m. - Caller reported she heard what sounded like a car crash behind her house on 495 at Trull Road. Police sent. They checked the area and surrounded areas, including 495 North and South with nothing showing. State police department reported no accidents in the area. Trooper off with accident further down near exit 88.

6:16 a.m. - Caller reported about five minutes ago she heard what sounded like gun shots across Shawsheen Street near the river. Police sent. They checked the area with nothing suspicious showing. They spoke with the caller, reporting noises came from South Street area.

4:53 p.m. - A 911 caller reported hearing four loud noises that he believed were gun shots at Poland Avenue. Police sent and checked the area. They found nothing.

6:37 p.m. - Caller reported an erratic driver that pulled into Luna Rosa. Police sent. Vehicle was gone on arrival.

Friday, November 28

12:10 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a vehicle was all over the road at Andover Street and last seen going toward Lowell. Officer unable to respond due to other calls.

12:51 p.m. - Caller reported an unauthorized occupant at Cardigan Road. They were yelling and scaring the caller. Police sent. They provided transport of the male to Marie Street.

4:01 p.m. - Caller reported female party in the lobby refusing to leave and was sectioned earlier today at Extended Stay America. Police advised a courtesy ride to Mammoth Road in Lowell.

8:03 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a suspicious silver car that has been following them at Livingston Street Park. Police sent. The vehicle was gone on arrival searching. No threats were made.

Saturday, November 29

4:26 p.m. - A 911 hang up at Langley Lane. On call back, they reported her son was playing with her phone. Police sent. Confirmed accidental.

Sunday, November 30

11:39 a.m. - Security Monitor reported a male walking around the car dealership lot looking at cars at Atamian Honda. Security reported there was 24/7 monitoring. Atamians website showed the dealership was open 12 - 5 p.m. today. An employee was on the lot.

12:10 p.m. - Caller reported two females fighting outside the Maplewood Road. Police sent. One party left in a black Honda prior to officer arrival. The other party was not being cooperative. This was a verbal argument between two friends. Officer filed a report.

3:53 p.m. - A 911 caller stated male party in a motor vehicle parking spot visiting at Cracker Barrel Old Country Store. Police sent. Devin Duncan, 28, of 682 Beech St. in Manchester New Hampshire, was arrested and charged with second offense of OUI liquor and possess open container of alcohol.



Wilmington Police Log

Police restore peace after incident at local eatery

Friday, Nov. 21:

2:15 p.m.: A brown 2013 Nissan Altima was involved in a motor vehicle accident on Andover Street. One person was transported by the fire department, and state police ultimately handled the situation.

Gas Station on Main Street. No injuries were reported.

Sunday, Nov. 23:

2:08 p.m.: A walk-in party from West Jamaica Avenue reported a verbal altercation with his roommate the night before.

Tuesday, Nov. 25:

8:19 a.m.: Eric James Ferguson of 1212 Glenwood Road, in Vestal, NY, was arrested for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and inhaling

glue or another toxic substance. This followed a caller on Burlington Avenue reporting a man sitting in his car yelling at her and being inappropriate.

4 p.m.: A caller at Greg's Roast Beef on Main Street reported a man who was screaming at him, and reportedly got physical with him. The other person involved also called, stating that the employee started yelling obscenities at him, so he yelled back, but stated nothing got physical. Police were able

to restore the peace.

11:44 p.m.: An employee at the CVS on Main Street reported a female shoplifter, who had since left the store in a black sedan.

Wednesday, Nov. 26:

5:34 a.m.: A black 2021 Toyota Rav4 and a gray 2024 Mazda CX5 were involved in a motor vehicle accident near the Shell Gas Station on Main Street. No injuries were reported.

12:03 p.m.: The manager

at the Shell Gas Station on Main Street complained about a man panhandling for money in front of the store. Police sent the man on his way.

2:52 p.m.: A caller at the Dollar Tree on Main Street reported his young son and his friends were approached by a man wearing a camo hat and dark pants. The man reportedly asked the kids to play kickball, but they felt uncomfortable and left.

Fatal crash underneath Route 495 overpass

TEWKSBURY — Police Chief Ryan Columbus reports that the Tewksbury Police Department responded to a fatal crash on Sunday night.

On Sunday, Nov. 30, at about 9:33 p.m., Tewksbury Police were dispatched to the area of Main Street underneath

the Route 495 overpass for reports of a single-vehicle crash.

Officers arrived on scene and observed a heavily damaged grey SUV resting on its side, lodged against the bridge.

Tewksbury Fire extricated the driver and sole occupant of the motor ve-

hicle. The driver was pronounced dead on scene by Lowell General Hospital paramedics.

The State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section and Middlesex District Attorney's Office responded to the scene and are assisting Tewksbury Police

with the investigation into the crash.

The investigation is active and ongoing, but preliminary findings suggest the driver suffered a medical issue prior to the crash.

Tewksbury to hold annual Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting on Dec. 5

TEWKSBURY — The Town of Tewksbury is pleased to announce that it will host the annual Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting on Friday, Dec. 5, 2025, from 5 - 7 p.m. on the Town Common, 1009 Main St. Join in for this FREE event. It will be a fun, family-friendly night to include:

- Marshmallow roasting on open fires
- Staging of an ice sculpture donated by the Wilmington/Tewksbury

Chamber of Commerce

- Warm cider, roasted nuts and other festive treats for purchase from What the Fork Catering and Totally Nutz and hot chocolate courtesy of Tewksbury Police Department

- Free balloon animals, caroling, and crafts
- Writing letters to Santa, and of course...

- Meet Santa across the street at Tewksbury Congregational Church from 7 - 8:30 p.m. after they

light the common!

Please be sure to bring an unwrapped toy to donate to the local toy drive through the Tewksbury Fire Department. Children in the community benefit from your generosity. Parking will be available at Town Hall, 1009 Main St., at Tewksbury Funeral Home at 1 Dewey St., and at Tewksbury Congregational Church at 10 East St.

Town Hall Avenue and East Street at Pleasant

Street will be closed to thru traffic. Expect heavy pedestrian traffic in the area.

This event is put on with the generous support of the Town Manager's Office, police department, fire department, Tewksbury Public Library, Department of Public Works, as well as community partners, Tewksbury Florist & Greenery, Tewksbury Congregational Church and Tewksbury Funeral Home.

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Tewksbury Together celebrates second annual Winter Fest

TEWKSBURY — Tewksbury Together, a non-profit focusing on local community service and support, is ready to celebrate Winter Fest 2025 on Dec. 6! The event will be held at the chapel on the Tewksbury Hospital campus (East St. entrance) from 10 - 5

p.m.

They will be raffling off decorated trees, wreaths, baskets, and other holiday items. There will be a guided winter trail walk, hosted by the Open Space and Recreation Committee, departing from the chapel at 10 a.m. Other activities will

include story time with Mrs. Clause and plenty of reindeer games! (weather permitting). Admission is free to all!

Don't miss out on the best Christmas cheer in Tewksbury!

For anyone looking to join Tewksbury Together, membership is free and

all activities are posted on their Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as their website, www.tewksburytogether.org.

For more information, please contact Jomarie Buckley at jfab0830@gmail.com or 782-799-4077.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025

The Wildcats take the field against Tewksbury. (Photo by Shivam Purohit)



Wildcats go down swinging

Not a victory, but Wilmington High football pushes Tewksbury in holiday showdown

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com

In the big picture, the Wilmington High football team sure did make a good accounting for itself.

Facing a Tewksbury High football team that played all of its top guns as it prepares for the Div. 4 Super Bowl, the Wildcats kept the high-powered offense of the Redmen in check in last Thursday's Thanksgiving Day football game at Wilmington High.

Tewksbury won the game by a 16-0 score, improving to 12-0, while Wilmington's season ended with a record of 6-5.

"It was a tough one," said WHS coach Joe Cavanaugh. "We played pretty good defense, to hold that team to two touchdowns. Nobody has done that yet. They couldn't put us away. But for us not to get into the end zone, I'm beating myself up over that."

To put that score into perspective, the Redmen had 394 points in their first 11 games, an average of almost 36 points per game.

Tewksbury scored more than 30 points six times and topped the 40-point plateau three times. TMHS beat Billerica 35-0, beat Andover by a 41-14 score and won three playoff



Colin Allard and Mark Holleran honor the national anthem before Thursday's game. (Photo by Shivam Purohit)

games by a combined total of 118-20. Aside from a 25-21 win over Lowell, nobody came closer to Tewksbury than Wilmington did.

The 16 points allowed by the Wildcats?

It's the lowest point total Tewksbury has had all year.

"Definitely a tough win," said Redmen coach Brian Aylward. "Wilmington is a good team with a lot of

great players. They had some big wins this season so we knew it was going to be tough. They are well coached, and their kids fought hard. That is what is expected in this game. The kids did not look past this game and played to the best of their ability."

"Our kids just fought," said Cavanaugh, who brought in a different Wildcat alumni throughout the

two weeks leading up to the game to talk to the WHS players about the importance of the game against the Redmen. "I told them to just focus on every play, hit and be tough. And we did. It kind of frustrated them a little bit."

Tewksbury scored touchdowns in the second and third quarters and also benefited from a third-

quarter safety on the way to the victory.

"Gus Lambert played incredible on defense," Cavanaugh said. "The whole defense played great. We played with energy. It was great. The rivalry is back."

The Wildcats had two good chances to score, but were unable to get onto the scoreboard against a talented Tewksbury squad that allowed only 97 points all year.

The Redmen registered two shutouts this season and held opponents to seven or less points seven times.

Early in the game, WHS junior Julian Martins busted loose for a 68-yard run from the Wildcat 4-yard line and didn't stop until reaching the TMHS 28-yard line. A penalty against Tewksbury on the play inched the Wildcats closer.

The Redmen started the game by driving inside the Wildcat 5-yard line before turning the ball over on downs.

Wilmington nearly took the lead with the long run by Martins.

"We just couldn't sustain anything," Cavanaugh said.

Wilmington had another excellent drive that started from its own 20 with 2:05 left in the third and nearly resulted in a score that would have made the final few minutes quite in-

teresting.

On second down from the 21, senior Gus Lambert carried left to the Wildcat 28.

Quarterback Mark Holleran followed with a four-yard carry up the middle for the first down.

Holleran opened the fourth quarter with a 7-yard carry to the 39 of Wilmington and Ayden Bellemey got the first down for Wilmington with a 5-yard carry to the Wilmington 44.

On third-and-15 from the 39, Holleran passed downfield to an open Martins at the Redmen 46.

A pass to Pat DeLucia for a 10-yard gain moved Wilmington to the Redmen 21.

On second-and-eight from the 19, however, Holleran dropped back to pass and threw over the middle, but Tewksbury's Desisto was able to make a leaping catch for an interception at the 13 with 5:50 left in the game.

"As a whole, I was super proud of the way they played and they way they fought," Cavanaugh said, "especially when they went up 14-0 and then we had a safety. In years past, it would have just tanked, but they didn't. They just kept fighting back."

Cavanaugh admits, the leadership on this year's team will be missed.

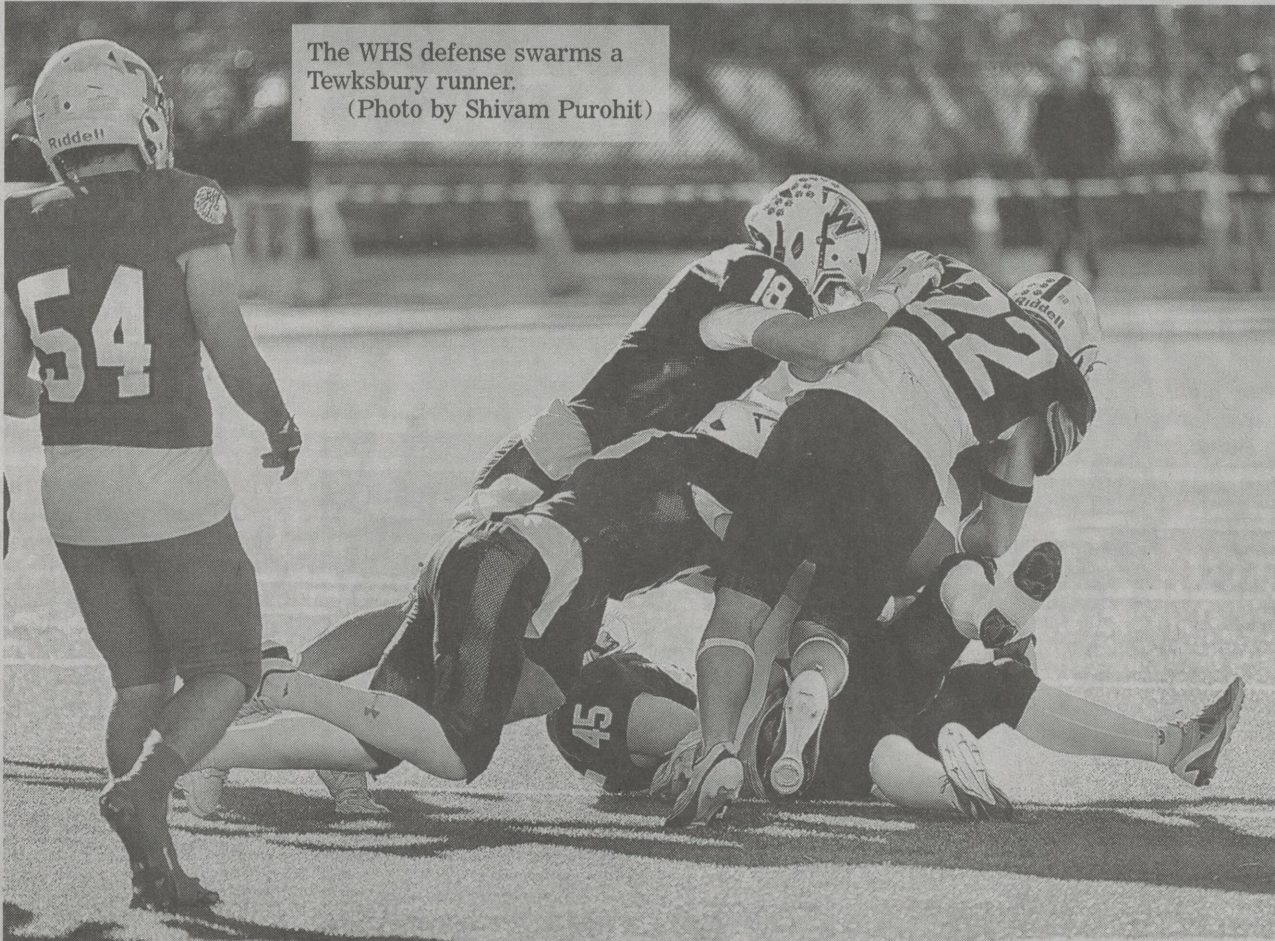
"We had 18 seniors and a lot of them could play, but they have to go out and play," Cavanaugh said. "This (season) is a credit to them and the amount of work they put in."

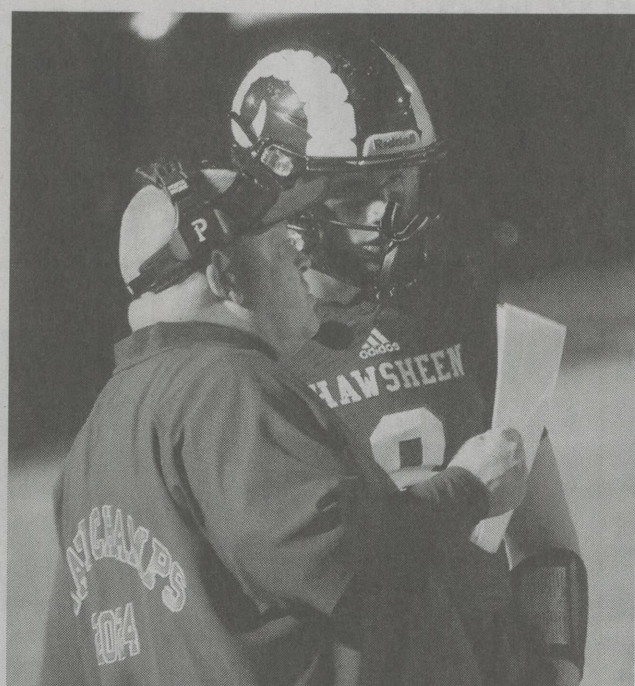
They just wanted to win. I'm glad for them. Obviously, I wish it turned out better than it was, but you have to take a step forward somewhere and they took a huge leap. They set the standard for the younger kids and now it's up to them to bring it to a new level."

Cavanaugh was also pleased with the job his coaching staff did, a group that Cavanaugh assembled that is loaded with former WHS players and coaches.

"We have a really good mix of personalities," Cavanaugh said. "We all work great together and the huge thing for us too is that they were all Wilmington guys. It's important to us."

The WHS defense swarms a Tewksbury runner. (Photo by Shivam Purohit)





▲ Offensive coordinator Doug Pratt and quarterback Adam Caruso talk strategy. (Photo by Doug Hastings)

Rams beat the stuffing out of AC

Shawsheen Tech football cruises to Thanksgiving Day victory



James Tildsley (44) helped Shawsheen remain undefeated against AC. (Photo by Doug Hastings)

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The Shawsheen Tech football team took time away from its preparation for the Div. 5 state championship game and beat Arlington Catholic on Thanksgiving morning by a 49-16 score.

The Rams (12-0) led 28-0

after the first quarter and 49-0 at halftime before the Cougars drove in two fourth-quarter touchdowns to avoid the shutout.

Senior Jake Banda opened the scoring with a 47-yard touchdown run before senior James Tildsley added an 11-yard score for a 14-0 lead.

The Ram defense would account for a pair of first-

quarter touchdowns.

Senior Nate Malandain returned a fumble 87 yards to the end zone to make it 21-0 and the fourth Shawsheen touchdown came on a 42-yard interception return by senior Dyllon Pratt.

Sophomore Cam Banda was the story of the second quarter with three rushing touchdowns from

distances of 35, 32 and 28 yards.

Andrew Santo was 5 for 6 on extra points in the first half while Jake Banda added a 2-point conversion rush.

Time ran throughout the second half as Shawsheen cruised to another holiday victory over the Cougars.

Rams off to the Super Bowl

Shawsheen Tech football beats North Reading, plays for state crown Friday at 5 p.m.

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

Shawsheen Tech earned a return trip to the Div. 5 with a thrilling overtime win over North Reading in the state semifinals, 22-14, at Danvers High.

The Rams will face Fox-

borough on Friday night at 5 p.m. at Gillette Stadium.

Shawsheen beat Foxborough last year for the Div. 5 state championship on the same field.

Against North Reading, who beat Shawsheen in a Super Bowl game back in 2022, Shawsheen senior

Jake Banda scored on a 6-yard touchdown run on the third play of overtime and then intercepted a pass moments later, ending the contest.

Banda's interception came on North Reading's first snap of overtime.

"Tremendous win," Ram coach Al Costabile said.

"This is just a very resilient group. We played great football team and for us to get behind and fight back and take over the third quarter... we were tough at the end. We played a great overtime."

North Reading won the coin toss after regulation and elected to play defense.

Three Banda carries later, the Rams were in the end zone before Banda also pounded in the 2-point conversion behind a swarm of Shawsheen linemen.

"Jake Banda is a horse," Costabile said. "He is so

special. He's just a player on both sides of the ball and he just has a knack for making the big play at the right time."

North Reading led 7-0 at halftime before the Rams battled back in the second half.

"We're in good shape and we just came out there in the second half and did what we do," said senior captain Eric Banda, who led the way on the line. "We pushed them around in that second half and got it done."

The first Shawsheen drive of the second half was a

memorable 57-yard march to the end zone in seven plays, six of them ferocious runs by Banda. He closed the drive with a 10-yard score with 8:21 left in the quarter.

Andrew Santo tied the game with his extra point.

The Rams then took the lead with 26 seconds remaining in the third quarter when Banda scored on a 13-yard run.

A 23-yard pass from senior quarterback Adam Caruso to sophomore Nathan Smith helped set up the score.

Banda also picked up 25 yards after taking a direct snap to start the possession.

The Hornets used a long drive to tie the game with 9:03 to go, moving 90 yards in 11 plays and scoring on a fourth down pass.

The Rams had a chance to win in regulation, but a field goal attempt with 13 seconds left was blocked.

Each team had other chances to score.

North Reading's first drive ended on downs at the Shawsheen 31-yard line while the first Ram drive made it all the way to the Hornet 9-yard line before an interception ended the possession at the 1-yard line.

Banda had runs of 28 and 11 yards during that first drive.

North Reading scored with 9:27 left in the half to take the 7-0 lead and nearly made it 10-0, but a missed field goal as the second quarter ended.

After Shawsheen tied the game, Shawsheen's defense came up big.

Senior James Tildsley had a huge play on first down, making a tackle for a 2-yard loss and eventually forcing a Hornet punt with 5:57 left in the quarter.

The Rams took the lead 5:31 later after eight plays with just 26 seconds left in the third.

The Hornets would tie the game with 9:03 to go in the fourth quarter.

Shawsheen had two more possessions in regulation.

The first reached the North Reading 27-yard line before Shawsheen turned the ball over on downs. A big 20-yard pass to Smith on fourth-and-eight highlighted the drive.

Tildsley and Jake Banda added first-down runs to the possession.

After a North Reading punt, Shawsheen drove from its own 40 to the Hornet 8-yard line before attempting a game-winning field goal that was blocked.

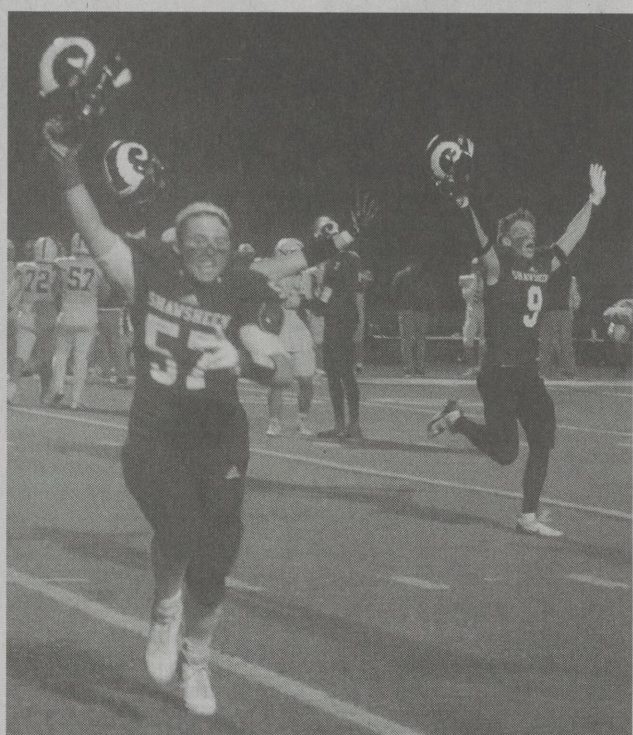


▲ The Rams celebrate their win over North Reading. (Photo by Doug Hastings)

▼ Shawsheen takes to the field.

(Photo by Doug Hastings)

▼ Eric Banda is thrilled after beating the Hornets. (Photo by Doug Hastings)



WHS cheer team shines at states

By **DOUG HASTINGS**
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

Last Saturday the Wilmington High cheer team competed at the state finals at Worcester State University.

The Wildcats finished

3rd in Div. 3.

Under the direction of coach Kylie Bolarinho, the Wildcats have been guided this season by their three senior captains, Lily King, Erin Murray and Maya Lanzi.

Other seniors leading the way for WHS include

Lily McLaughlin, Bella Cooper and Emma Chirchiello.

Juniors on the squad are Aubrey Annarelli, Gianna Jordan, Olivia Martiniello, Ava Potvin and Hailey Reguera.

Sophomore standouts for Wilmington include Alex-

ia Valente, Abby Joyce and Lily French.

The Wildcats have six freshmen on the roster, a group consisting of Molly Bagtaz, Maddie Scanlon, Audrey Delaney, Taylor O'Connell, Lily Israelson and Sophia Diflorio.



▲ **KODY CASTELLANO** (Courtesy photo)

Castellano playing in youth football tournament this weekend

By **DOUG HASTINGS**
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

Kody Castellano has a big week ahead.

Castellano's sixth grade Team Massachusetts Regional Tournament begins on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. at Westwood High School against a team from Rhode Island.

With a win, Massachusetts would play at 10 a.m. on Sunday for the Regional Championship against the winner of Connecticut and New

Jersey.

The regional tournament will send a team to the national championships on Dec. 17 in Naples, Florida.

Castellano will line up either at center or guard offensively and may play a bit at defensive tackle on defense.

The Wilmington resident recently tried out and was selected for the Mass Elite Football All-Star Team. There were close to 100 athletes that tried out for the 6th grade team and 40 were selected.



▲ The Wilmington High cheer squad took third in the state finals recently.

(Courtesy photo)

Youth Hockey:

Bantam 1's have busy weekend

By **RAYMOND MERCURI**
Special to the Town Crier
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The Wilmington Bantam 1 Wildcats skated into Saugus' Hockeytown Arena recently missing several key players: Matthew Riley, Mason King, Brendan Cyr and Matthew Fogg, but welcomed call ups Brian Doherty and Brayden Doe to help fill the bench.

Brayden Warford was also in attendance but remained sidelined due to injury.

Despite the short roster, the Wildcats delivered one of their grittiest efforts of the season in a fast, back-and-forth matchup that ended in a hard-earned 2-2 tie.

For more than half the game, the scoreboard stayed frozen as both teams traded rushes, blocked shots, and big saves. Wilmington's defense, led by strong gap control from Mason Desmond, kept Stoneham's attackers to the outside and limited high danger chances.

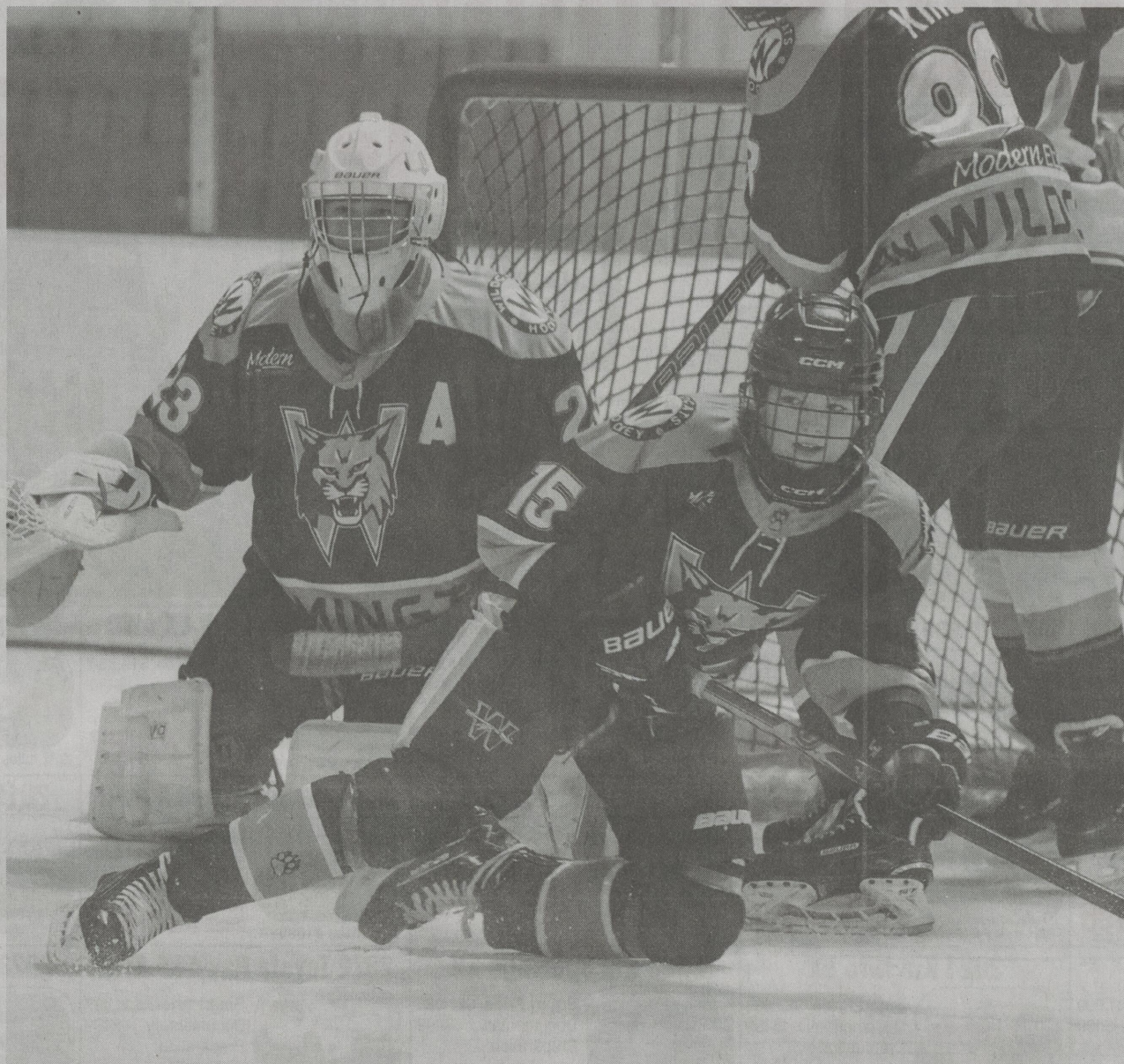
But with 5:12 left in the second period, Stoneham finally broke through on a strange bounce unique to the quirks of the Hockeytown Rink.

A Spartans winger gained the zone, but was steered wide by Desmond, forcing him to dump the puck.

What should have wrapped behind the net instead caught an unpredictable deflection off the boards, popping right out to an unchecked Spartan in the slot, who buried it for a 1-0 lead.

The Wildcats answered midway through the third with a beautifully executed three-man rush. Jaydn Onos carried the puck out of the defensive zone and dropped it to Grayson Lynch, who feathered a smooth saucer pass over center ice to a streaking Zach Stroud.

Stroud crossed the blue



▲ Wilmington's goalie Evan Jageler and defenseman Mason Desmond eye the puck as Mason King clears out an IceMan forward.
(Photo Michael Stroud)

line with speed and ripped a far side, top corner laser to tie the game with 8:18 remaining.

Momentum seemed to tilt Wilmington's way, but a tough turnover at the offensive blue line gave Stoneham life. As Johnny Raposo tried to chip the puck out of the zone, the Spartans' speedy center intercepted it and broke in alone on goaltender Evan Jageler.

The Stoneham forward converted on the breakaway, putting the Spartans up 2-1.

With 1:22 left, Wilmington

pulled Jageler for the extra attacker, sending out an energized six skater unit that included Stella Hardiman, Jaydn Onos, Grayson Lynch, Mason Desmond. John Raposo and Zach Stroud. The move paid off! Raposo, showing incredible determination, carried the puck nearly coast to coast through all the traffic.

Instead of forcing a contested shot, he unselfishly slid a perfect pass across the slot to Stroud on the back door. Stroud roofed it from just outside the far post, tying the game in

dramatic fashion.

Goaltender Evan Jageler was outstanding throughout the night, turning away 27 shots and making several crucial saves to keep Wilmington within striking distance.

Despite missing several regulars, Wilmington matched Stoneham stride for stride in a tight, intense game that showcased wildcat will to fight back. Both teams generated quality chances, but the Wildcats' late push and never quit attitude earned them a well-deserved point in the Valley League standings.

Alternate Captain Matthew Riley, and Stella Hardiman, while wingers Matthew Fogg skated with Fennelly and Alternate Captain Zach Stroud paired with Doe. On defense, Captain Brendan Cyr teamed with Jaydn Onos, and the Mason pairing of Desmond and King rounded out the blue line.

Evan Jageler got the start in net.

The IceMen opened the scoring with 7:58 left in the first period. After a defensive-zone draw won cleanly by Lynch, Onos delivered a heavy check in the corner, but the puck popped loose. IceMen forward Jared Lyons pounced, turning and firing a shot that deflected off Onos and slipped past Jageler low on the short side. North Andover carried a 1-0 advantage into the intermission.

Lyons struck again in the second, burying his second of the night. Pressure from Fennelly forced a point shot into traffic, and despite Jageler making the initial save, and a rebound stop but the third attempt finally found its way in, giving the IceMen a 2-0 cushion heading into the final frame.

North Andover extended the lead to 3-0 with 6:36 remaining in the third after a controversial sequence. As Mason Desmond attempted to cut up the corner with puck control, an IceMen stick clipped his skates, no call on the play, causing a turnover.

Teddy Lally quickly fed Cameron Crawford in the face-off circle, and Crawford snapped a low shot past Jageler.

Wilmington pulled their goalie with 3:15 left and surged with sustained offensive pressure, but IceMen goaltender Hunter Rauseo stood tall. North Andover sealed the game with an empty net goal, securing a 4-0 victory.

LOSS TO NORTH ANDOVER

The Wilmington Wildcat Bantam 1 team battled the Micro IceMen of North Andover (3-2-2) last Sunday night, returning to action after a 2-2 tie with Stoneham on November 22.

Missing regulars Johnny Raposo and Brayden Warford, the Wildcats bolstered their lineup with Brayden Doe and Jack Fennelly for what proved to be a physical, fast paced matchup.

Wilmington rolled three centers: Grayson Lynch,

Lifestyle

Visit the first

Rolling Ridge

Holiday Decorating

Showcase

By **HEATHER BURNS**
News Correspondent

There is nothing quite like experiencing the grandeur of a historic home. Add in a little speculation and tragic love story, and you've got the recipe for an interesting visit to North Andover's historic Rolling Ridge.

This once grand summer estate was the dream home of Ethan Allen and his wife, Alice.

Ethan Allen (not to be confused with the furniture store of the same name) was born in 1862, and he became a rich and successful wool merchant in New York.

In 1890, Allen married Minnesota native Alice Ranson, and together they had two children, Horace and Alice.

In 1899, the Allen's purchased 38 acres of land along North Andover's Lake Cochichewick to build their dream summer home.

There are many questions that circle around the purchase and building of this summer estate, but it is this couple's sad love story that the Rolling Ridge Estate is most known for

today.

Due to a lack of detailed historic records, it is unclear why these New Yorkers chose the rather remote Massachusetts town of North Andover to fulfill their summer homestead dream, but there are a few theories as to why the Allens may have chosen this area.

Some believe the area was introduced to Allen by a professional rival, Moses Stevens.

Stevens was also a successful New York textile merchant, and he built an estate on Osgood Hill, which is on the opposite side of the lake from Rolling Ridge.

Some believe these two men ran in the same social and professional circles, so it is likely that Stevens could have invited the Allens to his North Andover estate for one of his famous garden parties.

If so, the Allens may have fallen in love with the breathtaking scenery of the area, prompting them to look for land for their own summer retreat.

Others believe it may have been Allen's wife, Alice, that chose the location of

North Andover.

Alice's brother married the daughter of U.S. Congressman William Augustus Russell, who lived in Boston, but maintained Lakeview Farm in North Andover as a second home.

Theory has it that Alice may have been invited to North Andover by her brother and sister-in-law who also owned a farmhouse on Great Pond Road in North Andover.

Many believe the beautiful Lake Cochichewick would remind Alice of her home in Minnesota, prompting her to want to purchase land there. With the added bonus of having her family also living nearby, this scenario would seem to be likely.

It is also very possible that Alice's brother knew of the sale of the neighboring farm on Great Pond Road, which led to the Allen's purchase of that land, a.k.a. Rolling Ridge, in 1899.

Despite the fact that having a summer home was a longtime passion for the Allens, construction of the home and grounds did not start until 1915, 15 years after the purchase of the

land.

Unfortunately, Alice died before ground was ever broken for her dream estate in 1913.

Many feel that Ethan Allen built the home and gardens after her death as a tribute to his late wife, filling the grounds with her favorite rhododendron plants and painting the house her favorite color, pink.

As to the name of the estate, it is also unclear if Allen named the land Rolling Ridge, or if that name was given by the former owner, Winfield Scott Hughes.

Historians do know that the name Rolling Ridge is on the earliest known architectural plans for the estate, and the name has remained ever since.

Original plans for the estate included a tennis court, an outdoor theater, and a nursery, but they were never built.

Tragically, Allen himself never lived on the estate. He had remarried someone 30 years his junior after Alice's death, and later suffered from mental illness.

Allen lived his final days

as a long-term patient at the Brattleboro Retreat in Vermont until his death in 1932.

It is also a mystery why neither of his children ever lived at the Rolling Ridge residence, although rumor has it there was resentment between the children and their new stepmother because they were all similar in age.

Construction of Rolling Ridge was completed in 1923, and it was sold in 1928.

Today, Rolling Ridge still stands in all of its glory.

It was purchased by the Methodist Church in 1948 and is now used as a Retreat and Conference Center, but one can still imagine that Ethan and Alice's love story continues in the afterlife, as they are buried together in North Andover.

This holiday, the Methodist Church invites you to enjoy the warmth of the season and the love of the Allen family's dream by attending the first Rolling Ridge Holiday Decorating Showcase.

The grand Georgian style manor has been transformed by the Rolling

Ridge staff into a holiday wonderland with decorations and lights that are sure to lift everyone's Christmas spirit.

Bedrooms, meeting rooms and the surrounding grounds are all decorated, filling the manor with a festive atmosphere fitting to this impressive estate.

Visitors are encouraged to stroll the decorated rooms and participate in a fun contest with a vote for their favorite room.

The dining room offers complementary hot cider, cocoa, coffee and tea, as well as freshly baked seasonal treats.

Holiday visits to the Rolling Ridge will take place on Sunday, Dec. 14, from 2 to 7 p.m., and Wednesday, Dec. 17, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center is located at 660 Great Pond Road in North Andover.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for kids ages 5 to 12 years, and free for children 4 and under.

To reserve tickets to either the Sunday or Wednesday event, visit www.rollinridge.org.



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OBITUARY

Linda Diane (Dankese) Molloy

Educator who taught in Billerica for 36 years

On the evening of Nov. 25, 2025, Linda Diane (Dankese) Molloy, age 76, slipped from this world as softly as dusk folds into night, surrounded by the family whose love was her constant light.

Born on a sweet summer day in 1949 to the late Linda and Mercurio Dankese, Linda grew up in Lexington with radiant curiosity and a reverence for learning. As a child, Linda loved school and was deeply inspired by the teachers who lit a flame in her that never dimmed — a flame that lit the path to becoming an educator herself — a calling she prepared for through her studies at Lexington High School, Boston College, Tufts University, and Fitchburg State University.

Linda taught English and World Literature at Billerica Memorial High School for 36 years, opening the doors of imagination for generations of students, ushering them into the shimmering worlds of story. She found great joy in helping students discover the beauty of classic works such as *The Great Gatsby*, *Moby Dick*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Leaves of Grass*, and *The Old Man and the Sea*.

She cherished sharing the philosophies of literary titans including Thoreau, Shakespeare, Dickens, Hemingway, Whitman, and Twain — guiding young minds toward the truths hidden in the pages.

In her later years, former students often reached out to express their love and gratitude, reminding Linda that her fingerprints never faded from the lives she touched — proof that the imprints of

a good teacher deepen with time.

She also believed in the power of kindness put into action, as she developed and led the Community Service Program at BMHS, running fundraisers at the Cam Neely House and Ronald McDonald House. She treasured her three-plus decades in the classroom, where she formed lifelong friendships with colleagues and students.

Linda's creativity flowed beyond the classroom — as she became the co-chair of the Wilmington Arts Council, a dedicated watercolor painter, landscape photographer, and poet. Yet of all her roles, she cherished most being a devoted wife, loving mother, grandmother, and friend.

Her children, John and Justin, were her heart's compass; and over the years eight loyal German Shepherds found a home in her gentle care (Shadow, Gina, Comet, Kayla, Sasha, Bella, Ember, and Luna).

She found wonder in the wider world when traveling with her family to Sperlonga, Italy — her mother's birthplace; the warm shores of Sanibel Island and Saint Martin; the rugged beauty of Scarborough and Kennebunkport; the charm of Quebec City.

Linda leaves behind her beloved husband, John — her partner of 54 years and her heart's companion since the high school math class where their story began six decades ago. Together they built a life in their Wilmington home, filling it with laughter, books, happy wagging dog tails, and love.

She is survived by her son John and daughter-in-



law Kuan-yin, and grandchildren Jack and Lillian; and by her son Justin and daughter-in-law Meerim, and grandchildren Kai and Ivy.

Through life, she would remind her children to seize each day: "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may, Old Time is still a-flying; And this same flower that smiles today, Tomorrow will be dying."

"Carpe diem, boys," she'd say. Learn how short our lives are, so that we can become wise.

Linda's love, deep wisdom, and luminous spirit will echo forever in the lives she touched — shimmering through time like tides of light, enduring as the written word. In the hearts of those she loved, her story lives on, unending.

Family and friends are invited to attend visiting hours at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Avenue, Wilmington, on Tuesday, Dec. 2 from 4-7 p.m.

A Graveside Funeral Service will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 11:30 a.m. at Puritan Lawn Memorial Park - 185 Lake St, Peabody, MA in the Thoreau Meadows section of the park. www.nicholsfuneralhome.com

Healey-Driscoll Administration invests \$25M to support behavioral health workforce in Massachusetts

BOSTON — The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced that they are investing \$25 million to support the behavioral health workforce in Massachusetts. The investments include \$12.5 million in scholarships for students completing graduate degrees and certificates in behavioral health fields and \$12.5 million in grants to colleges and universities with eligible behavioral health programs, to be distributed as stipends to undergraduate and graduate students completing unpaid internships and field placements in behavioral health.

Students completing behavioral health graduate programs should apply for the scholarships by Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2026. Undergraduate and graduate behavioral health students looking to learn more about the field placement and internship stipends should speak with their program advisor as soon as possible.

"We need to strengthen our behavioral health workforce in Massachusetts so our residents can get the care they need, and these investments support students dedicating their time and talent into entering this field," said Governor Maura Healey. "These scholarships and internship stipends benefit students and the members of our communities that they'll serve."

"Our communities are stronger when residents can access behavioral health care, and that means we need to build a strong talent pipeline," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "Whether students are preparing to enter the behavioral health field for the first time or growing their expertise, it's crucial that we help those who are eager to help others."

A list of eligible graduate study areas for scholarship availability is available and it includes graduate degrees and certificates in areas such as social work, mental health counseling, substance use counseling, and mental health nursing programs.

Undergraduate and graduate programs in behavioral health require internships or field experiences, which are often unpaid and can cause students to take time off from their regular employment. The stipends for unpaid internships and field placements help lift a cost barrier to meeting this degree requirement and gaining valuable work experiences that help make graduates career ready.

"The behavioral health field needs the contributions of all residents who are passionate about this work," said Secretary of

Education Dr. Patrick Tutwiler. "By lifting cost barriers to behavioral health degree programs, we're strengthening a workforce that is crucial to our state's well-being."

"Massachusetts is facing the same challenges that states across the country are facing: a waning healthcare workforce," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Kiame Mahaniah, MD, MBA. "Over the last several years, this administration invested in our pipeline of providers, starting while they are in school. In addition to deepening their sense of community, expanding their experiences in school through internships and field placements will eventually lead to more stability for staff and patients. I'm grateful we're able to offer this second round of funding to behavioral health students to further their educational opportunities, and eventually gain more providers in Massachusetts."

"We want as many students as possible to be able to access the high-quality behavioral health programs offered by colleges and universities throughout the Commonwealth," said Commissioner of Higher Education Noe Ortega. "These scholarships and internship stipends will help students earn their degrees and strong start in a crucial helping profession."

This academic year is the second in a two-year program designed to boost the behavioral health talent pipeline. In the 2024-2025 academic year, the state awarded \$20 million to students across more than 30 colleges and universities in Massachusetts, including \$10 million in behavioral health scholarships for 977 students and an additional \$10 million in behavioral health internship stipends to more than 1,800 students.

Under this scholarship program, students may be awarded up to \$12,500 for tuition, fees, and stipends for each academic year in which they are enrolled, with a maximum of \$25,000 per recipient across two academic years. Scholarship recipients must commit to working in the Commonwealth for up to two years. Students who received the behavioral health scholarship last year must re-apply to be considered for this year's scholarship.

"UMass is grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration for making these scholarships and stipends available for the second consecutive year to students who are pursuing careers in behavioral health, helping to

address a critical shortage of professionals in the field. This scholarship funding enables students to meet requirements for internships and field experience, which are often unpaid, and eliminates a cost barrier for many students to allow them to obtain a degree in behavioral health," said UMass President Marty Meehan.

"As a university president with experience in nursing, public health, and education, I am deeply focused on the state of our healthcare systems. An aging population is driving up demand for healthcare, resulting in significant worker shortages across a variety of areas. How we reimagine our systems of care will shape our future. The Healey-Driscoll Administration's tuition subsidies through the Behavioral Health Trust Fund exemplify strong partnership between government, higher education, and the behavioral health sector. Our universities stand ready to close service gaps, improve outcomes, and work with the Governor's Office, health agencies, and legislators to build the skilled workforce needed to ensure all residents receive the mental health support they deserve," said Dr. Linda Thompson, president of Westfield State University, and Chair of the Massachusetts State Universities Council of Presidents.

"We are thankful for the Healey-Driscoll administration's ongoing support of students pursuing careers in behavioral health fields. This crucial investment addresses shortages in the state's behavioral health workforce and comes at a time when the federal government is making it more difficult and costly for those who wish to pursue a graduate degree," said Rob McCarron, president of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts (AICUM).

The two-year scholarship and internship stipend investment is funded by Massachusetts' Behavioral Health Trust Fund, which was established with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and is managed by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The Behavioral Health Trust Fund was a recommendation of the Behavioral Health Advisory Commission, which was comprised of 22 members from government and the behavioral health sector. Funds are being used to address barriers to the delivery of an equitable, culturally competent, affordable, and clinically appropriate continuum of behavioral health care and services.

Rep. Nguyen: It's time to shake up Congress

By TRAM T. NGUYEN
State Representative

If there has ever been a time to shake up Washington, DC, that time is now. It is not just the rising prices, the stubborn inflation, or the unsettling sight of troops patrolling our own cities. It is also the rampant corruption and the troubling reality that the entire structure of our federal government has been twisted to serve the whims of billionaires instead of the needs of We the People.

Yet I believe this is also a moment of extraordinary possibility. Across Massachusetts and across the country, people are demanding a government that listens, responds, and delivers. They are ready for leaders who fight for them. I am running for Congress to meet this moment and build something better.

I've been honored to represent Tewksbury and other communities in Middlesex and Essex Counties in the Massachusetts Legislature. In this role, I have fought to raise wages, close gender and racial pay gaps, and protect workers from exploitation and wage theft, championing legislation that directly improves the lives of working families.

I have brought together labor, local business-

es, and community leaders to grow our economy in a way that is fair, sustainable, and future-focused.

When housing costs spiraled beyond reach, we passed legislation banning broker fees that burden renters. When COVID hit, I led efforts to expand unemployment benefits so that workers forced out of jobs could keep their families afloat. I've stood firm for women's rights, strengthened protections against domestic violence, and worked to ensure Massachusetts remains a welcoming home for immigrants — families like mine.

I have built coalitions to unite people with real political differences, always guided by the principle that government should serve the people, not special interests. My work in the Legislature has prepared me to take on the challenges in Washington so that every family has a fair shot at opportunity, security, and the American dream.

That opportunity is slipping away. We can create good jobs by investing in infrastructure, clean energy, manufacturing, and housing construction. We must make childcare, healthcare, and education more affordable so families can thrive and businesses can grow. And

we must reform a tax system that today drives wealth to those at the top. The goal should be rewarding hard work and growing our economy.

I do not take our democracy for granted. I was born in Vietnam, and my family came to Massachusetts as political refugees when I was five years old. We lived in public housing, and I watched my parents work multiple jobs just to put food on the table and make rent.

Those experiences taught me the value of hard work and the power of opportunity. Affordable housing, workforce development, and education are not just policies but the foundation for strong families and thriving communities.

Today, Congress is pushing our country toward a future where freedom and opportunity belong to the few. That is not the America I believe in, and it is not the future we should accept. I am running for Congress to defend our democracy, restore fairness to our economy, and ensure that working people share in the prosperity they create.

Together, we can build a country where every family has a chance to succeed and no one is left behind.

Returnable bottle and can fundraiser

WILMINGTON - Cub Scout Pack and Troop 136 are collecting returnable cans and bottles this Sunday, Dec. 7 from 1-4 p.m. at the Wilmington Mason Hall located at 32 Church St. Wilmington.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will provide funds for the Cub and Troop Scouting programs for the coming year.

Members and leaders of both Cub Scouts and the Troop will also be

on hand to talk about their scouting programs.

If you have returnable cans and bottles and can't make the event, please call Frank West. 978-658-1754 to arrange a pickup.

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Massachusetts House approves \$3.65B plan to modernize and decarbonize public college campuses

BOSTON — The Massachusetts House of Representatives last week passed the BRIGHT Act, authorizing approximately \$3.65 billion in capital investment to modernize Massachusetts' public colleges and universities and support the state's academic, research, workforce and climate goals.

Originally filed by Governor Maura Healey, the bill is financed by 10-year special obligation bonds that are backed by Fair Share surtax revenue. These funds will be used to address deferred maintenance, modernization projects, and decarbonization across higher education institutions.

"As Massachusetts works to lead the nation in climate action, these investments ensure that our public colleges and universities can meet the demands of a clean energy future," said Rep. Tram Nguyen (D-Andover), Chair of the House Committee on Climate Action and Sustainability. "From modern labs and safe, sustainable buildings to

green construction and energy-efficient upgrades, the BRIGHT Act positions our campuses — and our students — to thrive in a decarbonized economy. I am especially proud of what this bill delivers for the Merrimack Valley and North Shore, strengthening regional workforce pipelines while reducing emissions and improving campus experiences for generations to come."

The investments included in the bill create a long-term, statewide strategy for addressing aging facilities while aligning campuses with the state's workforce, economic development, and climate goals. The bill also streamlines capital project delivery, expands the role of the Massachusetts State College Building Authority (MSCBA), and increases flexibility for campuses to manage facilities and property. The BRIGHT Act is estimated to create roughly 20,000 construction-related jobs across the Commonwealth as campuses undergo major capital improvements.

Finally, it expands access to popular programs like MassReconnect and the SUCCESS program to some private nonprofit institutions to give more students the ability to pursue higher education. Specifically, the bill:

Invests \$3.65 Billion in Core Campus Infrastructure

Authorizes approximately \$3.65 billion in bond authorizations for investment in public higher education campuses. The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) will manage most of these investments. Of the approximately \$3.65 billion, about \$3.1 billion will support higher education capital projects related to deferred maintenance, decarbonization, modernization, and planning. The investments at public institutions of higher education are broken down as follows:

- \$1.25 billion for the University of Massachusetts (UMass) System;
- \$1.25 billion for state universities (9 campuses) and community colleges (15 campuses);
- \$275 million for upgrades at MassArt;
- \$100 million for the transition of campus facilities and property into housing and mixed-use developments;
- \$120 million for lab modernization, projects at community colleges to support collaboration with vocational technical schools, and projects related to student health and well-being; and
- \$30 million for costs associated with developing required campus master plans.

The remaining \$170 million is authorized for several separate items as follows:

- \$50 million for a grant program administered through the Executive Office of Administration and Finance (A&F) for general improvements and climate-related upgrades at public institutions of higher education;
- \$20 million to the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS) for costs associated with facilitating or enhancing remote or hybrid learning at public institutions of higher education; and
- \$100 million for a grant program administered by the Executive Office of Education (EOE) for im-

provements to upgrade and expand career technical education and training programs (Skills Capital Grants).

Allocates \$80 Million for Decarbonization Upgrades

- These funds may be used for developing campus decarbonization plans; electrifying and replacing outdated fossil-fuel infrastructure; renovating building envelopes to reduce energy consumption; installing modern, energy-efficient equipment; and completing construction, renovation, demolition, or other facility improvements necessary to cut emissions.
- Public colleges and universities may apply for grants to support these upgrades, and all projects must align with decarbonization plans created by DCAMM and approved by the Commissioner.

Invests \$75 Million for the Merrimack Valley & North Shore

- \$25,000,000 for the Lowell innovation network corridor project at UMass Lowell.
- \$20,000,000 for Northern Essex Community College for construction, renovation, modernization, equipment acquisition, and instructional technology to expand regional vocational pathways aligned with clean energy and technical careers.
- \$20,000,000 for Middlesex Community College to expand, modernize, and develop the life sciences center on the Bedford campus, supporting high-demand workforce training and sustainable campus infrastructure.
- \$10,000,000 for renovation of the Sullivan Building at Salem State University, improving learning space quality and energy efficiency.

Updates DCAMM Oversight

- Updates DCAMM's project oversight in campus construction by raising the project delegation threshold from \$5 million to \$10 million for state universities and community colleges, allowing the Commissioner to delegate more projects to the MSCBA for supervision.
- Raises the threshold for schematic design to \$500,000, exempting smaller repairs and upgrades

from lengthy design and certification requirements.

Surplus Campus Property Process

- Allows DCAMM to dispose of surplus campus property and directs all proceeds into a new Higher Education Property Disposition Fund. DCAMM needs to provide written notice to the municipalities where the property is located. These revenues can then be reinvested in other capital projects, including deferred maintenance, decarbonization, and other critical repairs, without requiring additional appropriations, giving campuses a sustainable way to reinvest in their own infrastructure.
- Requires DCAMM to conduct a public hearing to consider restrictions for property that exceeds 2 acres or is 150,000 square feet or greater.
- Anticipates delegating envelope/HVAC projects, which allows for increased decarbonization work.

Improves Education and Transportation Fund Capital Financing

- To support investments, the bill authorizes the State Treasurer to issue special obligation bonds backed by the Education and Transportation Fund, strengthening long-term funding capacity for capital projects.
- Education and Transportation Fund revenues pledged for debt services are protected from diversion, and Fair Share surtax rate cannot be reduced while those revenues are needed for repayment.
- Clarifies and expands allowable uses for the Education and Transportation Innovation and Capital Account to include public education, affordable higher education, transportation infrastructure, and related capital needs, such as rail, bridges, bicycle pathways, and other public transportation assets.

Modernizes Massachusetts State College Building Authority (MSCBA)

- Allows DCAMM Commissioner to delegate campus construction projects costing up to \$10 million to the MSCBA, increasing it from \$5 million.
- Updates MSCBA's authority to provide expanded services to state uni-

versities and community colleges, including financing academic, administrative, and campus infrastructure, as well as managing decarbonization and energy efficiency improvements.

- Adds two ex officio non-voting seats to the MSCBA Board (one state university president and one community college president), increasing membership to 11 and allowing for enhanced information sharing.

Bond Issuance & Debt Structure

- To finance capital improvements, the bill authorizes the State Treasurer to issue up to approximately \$3.1 billion in bonds for campus upgrades and \$170 million for grants and technology services.
- Bonds are backed by Education and Transportation Fund revenues, not the state's general obligation capacity, and are therefore exempt from statutory debt limits.

Enhances Reporting, Oversight & Accountability

- Requires annual reporting from DCAMM, A&F, EOE, UMass, the state universities, and the community colleges detailing project status, expenditures, emissions reductions, deferred maintenance addressed, square footage impacted, and alignment with campus master plans.
- Requires additional reporting for all deferred maintenance projects over \$50 million within 90 days of the bill's passage.

Increases Access to Higher Education Opportunities

- Provides private nonprofit institutions of higher education who are designated as federal minority serving institutions, or as municipally owned colleges, access to grant programs that are currently available to community colleges.
- Programs include MassReconnect, the SUCCESS program, and other grant programs that are run by the Department of Higher Education.
- Directs DHE to promulgate regulations accordingly.

The bill passed the House of Representatives 148-5. It now goes to the Senate for consideration.

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www.homenewshere.com or
masspublicnotices.org/Search.aspx

LEGAL NOTICE



TOWN OF WILMINGTON BOARD OF APPEALS

A public hearing will be held at the Town Hall, 121, Room 9, Glen Road on **Wednesday, DECEMBER 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** on the following application:

CASE # 13-25
8 ALLSTONE AVE
MAP 69 PARCEL 37

APPLICANT:
PAUL CATALANO

SPECIAL PERMIT PURSUANT TO 6.1.6.4 TO BUILD A PROPOSED 18.4' X 12' GARAGE WITH A 1ST FLOOR SUNROOM AND A 2ND FLOOR MASTER BEDROOM EXTENSION, EXTENDING NONCONFORMING HORIZONTALLY.

251240 11/26, 12/4/25

LEGAL NOTICE



TOWN OF TEWKSBURY PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

FAMILY SUITE SPECIAL PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **December 15, 2025 at 7:00 PM** in the Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876 on an application filed by Richard Dwyer for a Family Suite Special Permit pursuant to Section 7.1 of the Tewksbury Zoning Bylaw to convert existing space within the single family dwelling for a family suite as shown on plans filed with this Board.

Said property is located at 111 Rockvale Road, Assessor's Map 110, Lot 88, zoned Residential.

The application may be examined on the Planning Board webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at www.tewksbury-ma.gov. Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on www.masspublicnotices.org

Stephen Johnson, Chairman
251218 11/26, 12/4/25

LEGAL NOTICE



TOWN OF WILMINGTON BOARD OF APPEALS

A public hearing will be held at the Town Hall, 121, Room 9, Glen Road on **Wednesday, DECEMBER 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** on the following application:

CASE # 14-25
54 HIGH ST
MAP 95 PARCEL 2

APPLICANT:
JENNIFER BOUCHER

SPECIAL PERMIT PURSUANT TO 6.1.6.4 TO BUILD A PROPOSED 922 SQ. FT. ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT (ADU)

251241 11/26, 12/4/25

LEGAL NOTICE



TOWN OF TEWKSBURY PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING

SPECIAL PERMIT

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **December 15, 2025 at 7:05 P.M.** in the Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876 on an application filed by David J. Plunkett, Esq. on behalf of 960 Main St Development LLC for a Special Permit pursuant to Section 8.3.10 of the Tewksbury Zoning Bylaw to convert the commercial unit of the mixed-use development to a residential unit as shown on plans filed with this Board.

Said property is located at 960 Main Street, Assessor's Map 47, Lot 77, zoned Town Center.

The application may be examined on the Planning Board webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at www.tewksbury-ma.gov. Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on www.masspublicnotices.org

Stephen Johnson, Chairman
251220 11/26, 12/4/25

Nomination papers available for election starting on January 5

TEWKSBURY — Nomination papers for Town of Tewksbury elected offices will be available at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, 1009 Main St., beginning Monday, Jan. 5, 2026. Office hours are Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Tuesday 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Friday 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

The annual town election will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The last day for candidates to file their nomination papers is Friday, Feb. 20 before 5 p.m., at the Town Clerk's

Office. 50 valid registered Tewksbury voter's signatures and addresses are required.

Offices open for election in the year 2026 are:

- Select Board (one seat)**
 - Patrick Holland
- School Committee (one seat)**
 - Kaitlyn M. Anderson
- Planning Board (two seats)**
 - Jonathan T. Ciampa
 - Stephen G. Johnson, Jr.

Board of Library Trustees (two seats)

- Jessica L. Rauseo
- Cathy M. Dwyer

Board of Health (one seat)

- Christine T. Janeczak

Housing Authority (one seat)

- Marc A. Difruscia

Moderator (one seat)

- Dustin T. Weir



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▲ Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian (fifth from left), members of the MSO, volunteers from the Discovery Museum, and representatives of the Manolis Family Foundation from Pridestar Trinity EMS stand behind a table filled with gifts at the Middlesex Sheriff's Office Training Academy in Chelmsford on Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025. (Courtesy photo)

► The Manolis Family Foundation generously donated frozen turkeys to be distributed to the families of incarcerated individuals through the Middlesex Sheriff's Office Family Support Services Unit (FSSU).

(Courtesy photo)



Middlesex Sheriff's Office holds holiday event for families of incarcerated

CHELMSFORD — Smiles, laughter and holiday spirit filled the Middlesex Sheriff's Office (MSO) Training Academy on Saturday, Nov. 22 as the office hosted an event for the families of incarcerated individuals.

The second annual holiday event was hosted by the MSO's Family Support Services Unit (FSSU). It featured activities with staff from the Discovery Museum in Acton, balloon animals crafted by retired MSO Captain Drew Crawford and cookie decorating.

Additionally, each family was given a turkey donated by the Manolis Family Foundation, fresh eggs from the MSO's Project EARTH, and cookies baked by the MSO's culinary staff. The Wish Project from Chelmsford and the MSO's religious services staff also provided

gifts that were distributed to children attending the event.

The event also featured a raffle of two bicycles donated by the family of an individual previously incarcerated at the Middlesex Jail & House of Correction. The family donated the bicycles as a thank you for the support they had received while their loved one was incarcerated.

"I am incredibly grateful to our team, the Manolis family, The Wish Project and the Discovery Museum for making this event such an overwhelming success," said Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian. "Speaking to so many of the families who came, it was powerful to hear not just how much today meant to them, but how impactful their experiences with our Family Support Services Unit team are throughout

the year."

"This was a great day," said FSSU Director Kerry Sullivan. "To see the happiness and know you're making a difference is powerful. Often times families are reaching out to us during difficult moments, so to be able to laugh with them and celebrate with them is something special."

Through the MSO's partnership with The Wish Project, the group is also working with the FSSU team to sponsor 40 families of individuals in the MSO's lower security programs (community work, work release and pre-release). Parents will be able to give these presents directly to their children during upcoming visits.

To learn more about the Middlesex Sheriff's Office and the Family Support Services Unit, please visit www.middlesexsheriff.org.

Friends of the Wilmington Memorial Library make 2025 Annual Appeal

WILMINGTON — Inviting community spaces are an important part of a vibrant society. And few places are as inviting as the Wilmington Memorial Library! The Friends of the Wilmington Memorial Library are proud to support initiatives that allow library staff to create useful and comfort-

able spaces at the library — areas that are available for all to use and enjoy.

With these goals in mind, the Friends are delighted to announce the 2025 Annual Appeal to provide funding for a soundproof TalkBox Booth to be installed at the library. At a time when the library's meeting rooms are in con-

stant demand, the TalkBox will make available a small, private space that can be reserved by individuals for phone calls, video conferencing or quiet study — without disturbing others or sharing personal conversations in public.

It provides a private work area in a public

space. The TalkBox can free up conference rooms and keep common areas quiet while offering necessary privacy and access to library resources.

Your contribution to the 2025 Annual Appeal will support funding the purchase of this TalkBox

Booth, allowing the library to continue expanding library spaces for all.

Donations can be accepted online at bit.ly/wml-friendsappeal25 or you can mail a check to the library at 175 Middlesex

Avenue, Wilmington, MA 01887. Checks should be made out to "The Friends of the Wilmington Memorial Library."

The Friends of the Wilmington Memorial Library thank you for your support!

Board votes to join Lowell Regional Transit Authority

SELECT FROM PAGE 1

Several Board to Consider items were then voted on.

First, the board voted unanimously to join the Lowell Regional Transit Authority. The new proposed bus route will begin operations on July 1, 2026.

They also voted unanimously to accept a gift from Veteran Services totalling \$150, to erect a Hero Christmas Tree in Town Hall at the request of Anne Murray, and to hold a shredding day on Sept. 12, 2026 in the municipal parking lot on Middlesex Avenue.

Jacob Gearwar then made a request to have the Select Board meetings moved to Tuesday nights instead of Monday. However, as this change would not work for either Gary DePalma or Frank West, the request was dropped and no vote was held.

The final item the board considered was a motion from DePalma to give the town manager more time to appraise the costs and benefits of renovation vs. demolition of the Buzzell building.

Slagle stated that there was a lot of confusion at the special Town Meeting pertaining to the building, and agreed that slowing the process down might be the right move.

Gearwar felt that this motion was solely intended to extend the time before the building could be demolished, and stated his desire for that intention to be included in the language of the motion.

Despite this protest, all members voted to grant this extension.

The meeting was then opened to public comments.

Suzanne Lawrence told the board she still believes Town Meeting had the right to overrule the board's vote to demolish the Buzzell building, and Rob Fasulo accused them of being responsible for the town's deficient buildings.

"You guys are failing us," added Fasulo.

Joseph Jackson agreed that the demolition should be put off, saying, "There doesn't have to be a rush on a 90-year old building, it isn't going anywhere."

He also suggested fixing some aspects of the building now that money was made available for this purpose at the Town Meeting.

Before adjourning, Cairra wished those present and the town a happy Thanksgiving.

Town to enter into contract negotiations with Poska

POSKA FROM PAGE 1

by others on the committee. Therefore, he kept his remarks brief and added that Poska's intentions to engage with the

town on all fronts helped win his recommendation, along with his coaching mindset.

A preliminary vote resulted in three votes for Poska, for Dr. Kwong, and for Dr. Haynes. When asked if they would support Poska, Mercaldi and Turner agreed. Lord and Golden, on the other hand, did not feel comfortable voting for him.

The final vote came out to 5-1-1, with Lord abstaining and Golden voting no.

Following a brief recess, Fennelly announced that Poska agreed to their offer to enter negotiations to become Wilmington's next superintendent.

Before adjourning for Thanksgiving break, Fennelly also suggested forming a negotiating subcommittee so the team can hit the ground running once the holidays have passed. Turner agreed and recommended Bryson, Mercaldi, and Fennelly for the position. Ragsdale made a formal motion on this matter, on which the committee voted unanimously.

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As Wilmington looks to save Buzzell Building

‘Save the Wyman’ group wants to convert former Woburn school into community center

By PATRICK BLAIS

WOBURN — A group of city residents who want to protect the historic Wyman School from the wrecking ball believe Woburn’s leaders should hold onto the Central Square property indefinitely for use as a cultural, community, or arts center.

In recent weeks, members of the Save the Wyman Castle Committee, a non-profit advocacy group created in the hopes of safeguarding the historic 1832 school house, began suggesting the abandoned educational property should be restored and repurposed into a new “arts and community hub that celebrates creativity, learning, and connections.”

Lifelong city resident Susan Thifault, a veteran Woburn school teacher and arts proponent, first unveiled the group’s vision in a social media post at the outset of this month and elaborated further on the plans in a follow up message to residents just before Thanksgiving.

“We are finalizing our status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization [known as] ‘The Castle Arts and Community Center,’” Thifault explained on Nov. 26. “We are ready to make progress and look forward to partnering with Woburn city officials for a lease on the land.”

Members of the non-profit hope to lead the preservation effort and reportedly hope to receive permission from the mayor and City Council to take over custody of the 3.5-acre parcel. Notably, Eaton Lane resident Dr. Patricia McCauley, another member of the Save the Wyman Committee, recently petitioned the City Council for citizens’ participation time so that she can further discuss the group’s vision for the school by the corner of Eaton and Main streets.

The council will decide how to handle that request for a meeting during tonight’s regularly scheduled gathering in City Hall. Over the summer, Ward 4 Councilor Joseph Demers, whose district includes the Central Square property at 679 Main St., told area abutters he was working to add a deed restriction that would require any future developer to consider preserving the historic “castle” portion of the site. Meanwhile, Mayor Michael Concannon, who has

asked the council for permission to “dispose” of the old school, has made it clear he will entertain any number of reasonable future uses for the site. Back in June of 2024, Woburn’s School Committee declared the old Wyman School property as no longer needed for educational purposes after a third-party architect and a 15-member ad hoc committee both concluded it would be prohibitively expensive to convert the old school into a preschool or administrative office building.

Specifically, Boston’s Di Nisco Design, which in the fall of 2023 released a long-awaited 766-page feasibility study that examined the conditions of each of the school district’s building assets, estimated it would cost up to \$20 million to bring the old Central Square area schoolhouse up to modern day building code standards. Further deeming the architecturally-significant “castle” building space and the newest “annex” wing as too small to house either the district’s largest special education program or its full pre-K population, the DiNisco report also estimated it

would cost at least \$10.6 million to further convert the “annex” building into a new headquarters for the school system’s central office administrators. Presently, the city values the entire school property, which includes a total of 30,000 square feet of space, at around \$7.3 million. According to assessing department records all three wings of the old elementary school building are currently assessed at \$4.9 million.

According to Save the Wyman Committee members, they have spent the better part of the past year studying various options for preserving the original 1824 schoolhouse and a subsequent 1924 addition. They currently plan on also reutilizing the site’s third “annex” building, another addition that was tacked onto the original “Castle” back in 1964 through an enclosed “bridge” or hallway connection. “Wyman Castle is more than just a beautiful historic building — it’s a symbol of Woburn’s heritage and a potential centerpiece for future generations,” said Thifault in a Nov. 5 message to city residents. “Our goal is to pre-

serve it not just as a relic of the past, but as a living part of our community’s future.”

The local residents, whose research led them to several other communities across the state where historic properties were successfully converted into arts and community centers, suggest the new use could foster arts-centered economic activity in the city and in turn, generate tax revenues for the community as new businesses pop-up around the old schoolhouse. In their initial Nov. 5 explainer to city residents, the advocacy group pointed out that the state’s arts and culture sector generates \$27.2 billion in economic activity annually. They believe the new community hub could feature several elements, including:

- Studio and exhibition gallery spaces;
- A community meeting center, where groups and city residents could meet;
- A historical museum where tourists could obtain information about sites of interest and where residents could conduct genealogy research or host educational programs;
- A performance space

where concerts, readings, and theatre events can be held;

- A cafe for visitors and residents to gather;
- And a grand community gardens where outdoor events could be held.

“The Save the Wyman Castle Committee has already invested countless hours researching preservation models, building community support, and outlining a realistic, sustainable path forward. We are prepared to establish a nonprofit, raise funds, and work in partnership with the City of Woburn and other stakeholders to make this vision a reality,” the group stated.

The Wyman School officially closed its doors as an elementary school back in 2018, when the student population was redistricted to the new Hurd-Wyman School by nearby Lowell and Wyman streets. However, the beloved property was considered so important to the city that the School Committee and various city leaders began considering a multitude of alternative uses for the site long before the new elementary school opened nearby.

Neighborhood abutters overwhelmingly support any effort to protect the historically significant building, which was designed by J. Merrill Brown, a former apprentice of famed American architect H.H. Richardson.

Wilmington Police Department, Middlesex Sheriff’s Office announce completion of interactive, scenario-based training

WILMINGTON — Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian and Wilmington Police Chief Brian Pupa have announced the recent completion of interactive, scenario-based training for members of the town’s police department.

The training was completed during the week of

Nov. 17 in Wilmington utilizing the MSO’s Mobile Training Center (MTC). 43 Wilmington officers participated over the course of five days.

During the training, officers were put through a series of video-based scenarios that replicated situations they may encounter on the job. This in-

cluded traffic stops, trespassing, and active shooter scenarios.

“Our Mobile Training Center is about bringing modern, innovative tools directly to our local partners. Our team prepares specific scenarios based on what each department wants to work on each training period,” said

Sheriff Koutoujian. “We’re grateful to Chief Pupa and his team for their continued collaboration and proud to partner with them on this training.”

“On behalf of the Wilmington Police Department, I want to thank Sheriff Koutoujian and the Middlesex Sheriff’s

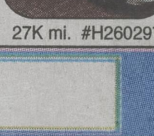
Office for bringing this training to our officers,” said Chief Pupa. “This program puts our people in real-life situations where they are forced to make split-second decisions, just as they would on the street. At the same time, it gives them the opportunity to put their de-escalation skills

to work and potentially change the course of a scenario that might otherwise turn lethal. This is the kind of training that makes officers better, safer, and more prepared to serve our community.”



Herb Chambers

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